



TAPIR TALLY

Counting the creatures at attraction



PAGE 6

NED'S BOOK

Old days are Gornal but not forgotten



PAGE 8

Parties in talks over festival proposals

PLANS are being developed ahead of this year's Black Country Day festival with councillors meeting to exchange ideas.

Leaders from Dudley Council's main political parties have been invited for talks to further develop the 2015 event.

Plans are currently at an early stage but all parties have been asked to bring their proposals to the table. UKIP group leader in Dudley, Councillor Paul Brothwood is looking to promote the festival by creating school champions.

Schools

Wordsley representative Councillor Brothwood believes the champions will help raise awareness of the event.

He said: "I'm hoping that schools would like to take part in the event."

"I'd like to take the idea further by linking schools together through their champions."

"Last year's Black Country Festival, which was run through the community, proved a huge success and I feel that through school champions it will only help people understand their identity."

"I also want it to be non-political because this is a community festival."

Fashion chain jobs at risk

STRUGGLING clothing retailer Bank has become the first high street store to go into administration following the Christmas rush, putting more than 1,500 jobs at risk.

The firm operates 84 stores nationwide – including one at the Merry Hill shopping centre – and all stores remain open as normal.

No redundancies have been made while administrator Deloitte is considering interest in the business from several parties.

ZOO SUCCESS IS ANIMAL MAGIC

THOUSANDS more visitors have been pouring through the gates of Dudley Zoo and bosses have taken on extra staff to cope.

The success continued during the festive period with more than 12,000 people visiting the grotto at the Castle Hill attraction.

In total, 22 new members of staff have been hired at the Castle Hill attraction as it celebrates a bumper year in 2014. Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock says the boost comes with more improvements in the pipeline.

Major construction projects have come to fruition including the creation of a new shop, entrance and car park. Work has continued on the renovation of the amphitheatre-shaped Bear Ravine, one of the architecturally significant Tecton structures. These include Kiosk One, which will become an information point.

Iconic

Renovations have also seen the iconic zoo entrance restored back to its former glory. The famous 'wave' entrance on Castle Hill has gone back to its original blue colour and lights have been put behind the 'zoo' letters to make them stand out at night. Metal meshing has been re-painted and the roof repaired.

Costs for the entrance and shop are £417,000, with £200,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and remaining £217,000 paid from the zoo's own coffers. The funds are part of a £1.15 million Heritage Lottery Fund contribution that also helped towards the refurbishment of the 1958 chairlift and the launch of an apprenticeship scheme for concrete repair and conservation skills.

By Andrew Turton

Mr Suddock said: "It is fantastic to see the business in such a good place and growing successfully."

"Visitor numbers have grown year-on-year. Last year's figure of 265,000 have increased to 290,000, which is a nine per cent rise, and indicates a solid growth."

He added that demand for events and animal experiences, alongside restoration works, prompted expansion of the workforce, which now stands at 82 employees – excluding seasonal staff. That includes a full restructure of the retail section to cover the new shop and entrance.

"Further demands for our vintage chairlift and road train, also for birthday parties and special events, required us to grow our core operations team, while animal sections welcomed four apprentice keepers."

"It's a success that has been hard won and follows many, many years of behind-the-scenes work and investment. We are delighted that through these actions Dudley Zoo is entering a new era. Projects for 2015 include the launch of Castle Creatures, featuring live animals within medieval walls, a birthday experience for young visitors, plus four newly-restored Tecton structures to explore."

Fans rallying around injured player



Stourbridge Town footballer Ben Billingham suffered an horrific injury on the pitch

IT is the moment every footballer dreads – when the doctor says you face a long recovery after an injury.

But what do you do if football is merely your hobby and injury leaves you unable to earn money for your family? That's the reality for Stourbridge Town's Ben Billingham, who faces months on the sidelines with his only income now insurance payouts, following a freak accident on the pitch.

Ben, a self-employed construction worker, said: "I can't even get up to make a cup of tea, I can't do anything."

He has been a Glassboys regular, notching up more than 250 appearances over the last five seasons. But the midfielder's career has been temporarily halted after his horrific accident in a game at Matlock Town earlier this season. Ben ran to chase a loose ball but his boot got caught in the heavy turf.

The 25-year-old fell to the ground and dislocated his ankle, causing fractures to his tibia and fibia and snapping two ligaments.

"I looked up and the ankle was facing the backwards – I thought 'that isn't good'," said Ben, who lives in Kestrel Road, Colley Gate. He had an operation and may face another.

The club has held collections for him and opened a bank account to allow fans to help out.

He added: "The club's support has been fantastic and so has the fans'. They have been legends."

Man is in court over body in basement

A MAN from the Black Country has appeared in court charged with the murder of a father who was found in the basement of a house in Rowley Regis.

The body of Baljit Singh was discovered at the house in Beeches Road on New Year's Day.

He had been missing since December 23 when he had left his home in Birmingham to collect a birthday cake for his son.

Stuart Millership, who is accused of killing 50-year-old Mr Singh, was remanded in custody at Sandwell Magistrates' Court on Monday.

Plea

Millership, aged 32, of Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, spoke only to confirm his name.

He was set to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court yesterday (Wednesday) for a plea and case management hearing.

Millership was arrested on New Year's Eve in King'swinford.

A post mortem found that the victim Mr Singh, from Meadow Road, Harborne, Birmingham, had died as a result of head injuries and a knife wound to the neck.

Mr Singh had been one of the founders of Smethwick-based Mahal Warriors Football Club.

Motorcyclist hurt in crash

A MOTORCYCLIST was taken to hospital with a suspected broken leg after hitting the back of a bus.

The accident happened in Moor Street, Brierley Hill, at around 3.25pm on Saturday. Firefighters believe the bike slid on a metal drain cover after rain made roads greasy. They helped raise the bus to allow them to pull the bike from underneath it.

The road, near the junction with North Street, was blocked for up to an hour after the accident.

website www.wombourne-windows.co.uk

Wombourne



indows

call us now on 0845 6030334 (Local Rate)

see our full page advert on page 10

Showroom Opening Hours

2015

Mon-Thurs 9am-6pm

Friday 9am-5pm

Saturday 10am-3.30pm

Sunday Closed

CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Feature	6
Letters	7
Memory Lane	8
What's On	24
TV Listings	25 - 27
Brain Gym	28
Property	29
Motoring	30
Sport	39 & 40

CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Dudley who can help:
Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex-ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlie Benton: 01384 353201

What's happening in your area? We are always keen to hear about any issues affecting you. E-mail your information and pictures to: **dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk**

Sports:
Tel: 01902 319453. e-mail: **chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk**

Photographic
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

Advertising

Sue Jones
Tel: 01384 399901
E-mail: **sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk**

Motoring

Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: **liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk**

Distribution:

Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: **p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk**



**51-53, Queen Street
Wolverhampton**

Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm
and 2pm-5pm

www.yourchronicle.com

Charity making bid for £350,000

A CHARITY which helps vulnerable people and those recovering from alcohol and drug addictions in Dudley is bidding for more than £350,000.

The cash would be used to fund a new base and increase its range of support services.

Summit House Support, which has been running for more than 20 years, is in Martin Hill Street.

Bosses have now bought bigger premises within the St Thomas's ward - one of Dudley's most deprived areas to enable them to expand.

The charity provides programmes and support for people recovering from drug and alcohol misuse.

It also offers support, advice and information for people living with HIV/AIDS as well as the lesbian,

gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

The charity has been working with Dudley Council on its application for £351,000 from Public Health England.

Some of the money will be used to set up a kitchen for training and a cafe.

While there would also be work units and rooms where support

groups could be run. Council chief executive John Polychronakis said it would enable the charity to have a bigger presence in St Thomas's.

"Summit House Support have recently purchased a property in the St Thomas's Ward which is bigger than the existing building and will enable the delivery of a wide range of high quality services. The space will be utilised to include offices."

Leader makes pledge to freeze council tax

DUDLEY Council's new leader has pledged that council tax in the borough will be frozen for the fifth year running.

Councillor Pete Lowe said thanks to the authority's prudence and early planning, he will be leading a motion to not increase tax for 2015/16.

But he admitted there was a risk of further job losses over the next three years as the council attempts to save £27million over that period.

Officer hit by car is out of hospital

ONE of two police officers seriously injured when a car was shunted into them at Dudley Port has been released from hospital.

Both officers suffered leg fractures after being thrown into the air when a VW Golf GTi ploughed into the back of a stationary Mercedes E350 they had stopped on a routine check at 1.30pm on Sunday morning.

They were on the A461 outside Dudley Port railway station, near Tipton.

The 46-year-old has since been released but the other man, 44, remains in hospital and continues to be treated for leg injuries.

The crash shunted the Mercedes into the police officers.

Both officers suffered broken legs and one was knocked unconscious. The driver of the Golf was trapped in the wreckage of her car.

The 37-year-old Golf driver, from Dudley Port, was taken to hospital with a suspected broken shoulder and was spoken to by officers, who continue to investigate the circumstances of the collision.

Anyone with information should call the collision investigation unit on 101.

He said: "There are no plans to raise the council tax."

"Through efficiencies and workings within the council about where we can drive out savings we have been able to do this."

But he added: "Going into 2016/17 and 2017/18 there is always that risk of job losses."

"But we have been very fortunate in Dudley because we have taken decisions quicker than many other authorities and we have been able to do things in a planned manner so we have kept compulsory redundancies to absolute minimum."

Charges

The motion, if approved, would mean the cost for an average Band D property remains at £1,283 a year.

However, charges will still be made by the Fire Authority and Police and Crime Commissioner.

This year the council was given £1,145,027 from the Government for its council tax freeze grant.

It is predicted that if a council tax freeze for 2015/16 is agreed, the authority would receive £1,154,632 from the Government.

Among the savings outlined are cuts to street cleaning and plans to shorten the collection period for green waste to save £100,000.

Maintenance of parks and public spaces would also be reduced.

Battling to keep pub car park



The Haden Cross pub where campaigners are fighting the pub's car park becoming a Co-op

CAMPAIGNERS are gearing up to fight plans to build a convenience store on the car park of a popular Cradley Heath pub.

Proposals for the Co-Operative store at the Haden Cross Inn have been lodged with Sandwell Council and will be considered in the coming weeks. The scheme would reduce parking spaces for pub-goers from 30 to just five.

Chairman of the Friends of Haden Cross Inn group, Tim Haskey, said: "The reason we are campaigning is to save the pub. But

there is also the issue of health and safety. The pub is on a busy road and although this shop may not increase traffic it would increase the number of manoeuvres on and off the car park. A third issue is we just don't need another convenience store."

New River Retail, which owns the Haden Cross, said the proposals had been designed to help safeguard the future of the pub.

More than 400 people signed a petition against it and a public meeting is being held at the pub on January 13, 7.30pm.

Boss must pay up to clear pile of rubbish

A MAN who failed to clear up a towering pile of rubbish in Brierley Hill faces having his assets seized following a court ruling.

Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd director Robert McNaughton served a term in jail last year for failing to comply with a court order to clear the site in Moor Street. But the Environment Agency continues to struggle to get the 19ft high rubbish pile cleared.

Now the agency has been granted a writ of sequestration from the High Court, allowing officials to seize assets from Mr McNaughton and the company. The assets would then be used to pay for clearing up the site.

Harriet Templar-Vasey, agency spokesman said: "We are continuing to take legal action to force Refuse Derived Fuel Limited and its director, Robert McNaughton, to clear the remaining waste from the site."

"We have recently obtained a writ of sequestration from the High Court. Enforcement officers have visited both Mr McNaughton and the company, and are currently investigating what assets can be seized. It is possible that there will be further court hearings."

Boy in court after stabbing

A 14-year-old schoolboy has appeared in court charged with attempted murder after a stabbing on a Dudley bus.

The teenager from Dudley is accused of stabbing a 29-year-old man in Burton Road last Friday. He appeared at Warley Magistrates' Court on Monday. The case was adjourned and the teenager will reappear at Wolverhampton Crown Court tomorrow (Friday).

The man stabbed remains in hospital. A 19-year-old woman also injured on the bus has been released from hospital after treatment.

Variety show

COMEDIAN and actor Duggie Brown comperes a night reliving the Good Old Days of Variety at Dudley Town Hall. Due to repairs at the venue, the afternoon show has been moved back from March 3 to October 13. Tickets are £11. Call (01384) 812812.

ROOFING SERVICES

SPECIAL OFFERS

on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/ Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs

- Insurance work undertaken
- Est 25 years
- Discounted for OAPs
- Exterior Painting



WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE

- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15

**Home: 01384 872276
Mobile: 07584 081228**

HOMECLAD

- FASCIAS
- GUTTERING
- SOFFITS
- CLADDING
- TILE EDGING

BEST VALUE IN THE MIDLANDS

PREMIUM PRODUCTS EXPERTLY FITTED BY A LOCAL FAMILY COMPANY

SPECIAL OFFER
FREE guttering and downpipes

0800 73 13 946
CALL FOR A NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

8 ABBOTSFORD DRIVE DUDLEY DY1 2HD

Founded 1982
Chief Instructor
Shihan Paul Campbell
7th Dan

BA (Hons) Leisure & Recreation Management

Paul Campbell is principle instructor to PC Karate Academy and has been involved in Karate for 41 years.

He believes that Karate should be available to everyone, regardless of the area they live in, their social background or their academic ability. Paul has a tradition within the club for strong discipline and etiquette.

Paul holds enhanced DBS certificates from Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (2014) and ensures that all of his instructors' credentials are updated and maintained.

Classes Monday to Saturday for all ages from 4 - 64.
Contact Paul
07774 641570 / 01384 262811
www.pckarate.co.uk

Face Book : PaulCampbells Karate Academy

Broken Dentures?

1 hour denture repair service

New Dentures available & made at...

The Dental Shop
Est. 1981

01384 413444

201-203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill, W. Mids. B64 6HE
www.the-dental-shop.co.uk

FOOTWORKS Chiropody Clinic

- Full range of services with disabled friendly access
- Nail Cutting and Trimming
- Diabetic Footcare
- Corns and Calluses

01384 413444

201-203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill B64 6HE
www.footworkschiropridists.co.uk

Children in saddle thanks to new fund

A FUND set up in memory of a Stourbridge GP has been launched to help children with special needs learn how to ride horses.

An open day at The Wyke Equestrian Centre, near Shifnal, in Shropshire, signalled the start of The Liz Pope Memorial Fund.

The fund was set up by the family and friends of Dr Pope, who died at her home in Claverley within two hours of being involved in a car accident. The 38-year-old was a GP partner in the Three Villages Medical Practice serving Amblecote and Wollaston.

Her sister Pippa said: "Liz was passionate about horses. The Liz Pope Memorial Fund was set up to provide small grants to enable children with special needs to enjoy the therapeutic benefits of riding and interaction with horses and ponies."

"The fund has been set up by her husband Trevor, our parents David and Diana Chantrey, my sister Frances, myself and other family members and friends."

Dr Pope, despite being diagnosed with a hole in the heart and later with thyroid cancer, had an active life which included horse riding.

Recycle cards at superstore

SHOPPERS can recycle their Christmas cards and wrapping paper at Sainsbury's stores in the Black Country.

The supermarket chain is collecting the items for the Forest Stewardship Council and last year raised more than £9,000.

Used cards and wrapping paper can be dropped into collection boxes until Tuesday, January 13. They will be recycled and a donation made to FSC UK.

Amblecote store manager Kevin Healy said: "We had a really good response from our customers last year."

Swift bus move

AN Oyster-style bus card will be available across the West Midlands in the next few months, bosses say.

Centro is introducing the electronic Swift smartcard. Currently the cards are only accepted by some bus companies but operators are poised to extend it.

Manager has trainees cooking on gas

A MANAGER who is helping to train the next generation of gas engineers has been honoured by Stourbridge College.

Allan Ovington, regional service operations manager for Worcester-based Bosch Group, has been the driving force behind the training programme.

He has taken apprentices from all over the country through their Level 3 Diploma in gas utilisation at the college's Advanced Technology Campus in Brierley Hill.

The partnership between the college and Bosch Group has been running for five years.

Mr Ovington was presented with a Fellowship Award for his work.

Mr Ovington, said: "It is really nice to be recognised in this way at such a wonderful event which highlights how important progression is for people who want to improve both personally and professionally."

"From my perspective I find it nourishing to be involved in the future of our business by ensuring that employees are trained and have the opportunities to progress."

"We have been really impressed with the high standards of teaching and leaning as well

as the knowledge and experience of staff." Other award winners at the Higher Education Awards Graduation Ceremony were Stephen Booth of Straumann UK, Les Ratcliffe of Jaguar Land Rover and James Villarreal of Glide UK.

Andrew Cleaves, principal at Birmingham Metropolitan College, which runs Stourbridge College, said: "On behalf of the college, students, staff and the governing body, I congratulate them all and offer my thanks for their much-valued support and continuing friendship."



College principal Andrew Cleaves with Allan Ovington

Boss of theatre campaign in vow to carry on project

CAMPAIGNERS wanting to reopen the Dudley Hippodrome as a theatre are refusing to give up their fight — despite their proposal being dismissed by the new leader of the borough council.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group suffered a blow after Councillor Pete Lowe claimed the members' business case was not viable.

It comes two years after a previous proposal by the group for the venue, last used as a theatre 50 years ago, was turned down.

Their latest business plan would see the venue refurbished with 1,600 seats. Funding would be raised from grants and from renting out meeting rooms.

Discuss

Councillor Lowe has claimed that the group's business case 'didn't stand up', inviting the members for a meeting to discuss other platforms to provide arts space in the borough.

Group chairman Gordon Downing said members will not give up on their scheme.

He said: "It is disappointing the members found out through the newspaper rather than being contacted beforehand, it has left a lot of people upset. But we are not giving up. I want to have a meeting and find out how the decision on our business case was made."

"Our figures do stand up."

By Alex Ross

We don't intend to get the money to do the revamp straight away, we would raise cash gradually by renting out rooms. Our calculations were done using £20 for a seat to a show, that is really a minimum considering the names we could get. The case is solid, we based it on the Plaza theatre in Stockport."

Under the business plan, the projected running costs would stand at £112,000 but could be reduced by at least 80 per cent if the group was granted charitable status.

The Hippodrome would be open 250 days a year with 10 full-time staff.

Profit would come from ticket sales and refreshment stalls with takings based on selling 800 seats a show.

Dudley Hippodrome was built 1938 and was used as a theatre until 1964, when it became a bingo hall. The building has been unused since 2009.

Swimming for toddlers

PARENTS and toddlers can make waves with new swimming courses being launched at Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge.

Classes to introduce children aged six months to four years to the water take place over the course of 11 weeks, sessions are led by a qualified instructor and run until Easter. Classes do not run during the February half term.

For more information call the centre on (01384) 812800.



Keith Jeffries, Deb Brownlee and Martin Horwood with some of the items for sale

Click and collect jumble at church

THE popularity of click-and-collect shopping has inspired fundraisers to set up their own store in aid of the restoration of a Dudley church.

Members of St John's Church Preservation Group believe they have hit on an innovative way of converting donated items into funds, using a combination of social media and conventional jumble sales.

But they have also been prompted to try a new way of fundraising after their previous 'jumble sale room' was targeted by thieves.

Money raised from the sales will go towards the restoration of St John's Church in Kates Hill.

Chairman Deb Brownlee said: "Originally we had a jumble sale room open six days a week at our base next door to St John's."

"However, we identified a number of problems with this, namely it was tying up our volunteer team time and our available space too much and in addition we suffered from some shoplifting and anti-social behaviour problems."

"The last straw was someone stealing our plug-in air freshener. We needed to devise a new way of doing things."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Peaky beer helps brewery expand

A BLACK Country brewery is to offer a new special draught beer each month during 2015 after moving production to a new site.

Sadler's Brewery had a successful 2014 helped by big sales of its Peaky Blinder brew, which was inspired by the BBC television series Peaky Blinders.

The opening of a new brewery at Conyers Trading Estate, Station Drive, Lye, will enable it to increase output.

Brewing was originally carried out at its site next to the Windsor Castle Inn in Stourbridge Road, Lye

More players try out tennis club

A TENNIS club invited dozens of new players at three welcome events.

Wollaston Tennis Club held the events, including one which took place on New Year's Day.

Chairman John Cutler said "Mix in sessions are very much at the heart of Wollaston Tennis Club. They are designed so that people can just turn up and play doubles tennis with different people. It was wonderful to see so many people come along to play in these events."

New laughter yoga sessions to start

NEW sessions of laughter yoga will begin next week in Wordsley.

Maggie Thompson will hold the sessions from 7-8pm on Monday, January 12 at Wordsley Community Centre, The Green.

They aim to give people the opportunity to let go of their inhibitions and laugh together with deep breathing exercises in a group.

For details call 07565 218567.

Socks and chocs given to homeless

A CHURCH donated hundreds of pairs of socks to the homeless as part of an annual appeal.

Our Lady and All Saints church in Stourbridge also gave 381 pieces of chocolate to the needy as part of its Socks and Chocs initiative.

Sleep bags were also given out at soup kitchens over the festive period.

Puppy is rescued

A PUPPY stuck between a fence and a conservatory in Dudley was cut free by a fire crew. They created a gap in the fence at a property in Warrens Hall Road to release the distressed animal on Friday evening.

WOODSTOCK TIMBER SUPPLIES LTD

Large stocks of sawn timber
P.S.E. & Sheet Materials
Decking & Accessories

**SPECIAL DEALS ON SHED
MATERIALS - LOG LAP,
SHIP LAP, FEATHER EDGE &
NEW SLEEPERS.**

Contact Nigel or Dave
Old Bush Street, Off Level
Street, Brierley Hill,
West Midlands
Tel: 01384 572541
Fax: 01384 481756

ELV RECYCLING LTD

- Vehicle Recovery, Depollution and Disposal
- Top Prices Paid • DVLA Certificate of Destruction
- Authorised Treatment Facility

**• NEW PARTS DEPARTMENT NOW OPEN!
• Parts Line Call Direct 07875 470537**

All makes and models including tyres and batteries, cheap prices, delivery available, 1 month's warranty on all parts

Opening times: Monday-Friday 8.30am-4.30pm
and Saturday 8.30 am-1.00 pm

Fast and Friendly Service

**ELV Recycling (Mids) Ltd Brierley Hill
01384 77308**

Able & Bromley Carpets / Beds

Family Run Est since 1978

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE

JANUARY SALE NOW ON

WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T.
Help move heavy furniture, up lift plus take away old carpets and underlay.
Shave doors. Bed assemble and disposal.
Plus free fitting on selected ranges.

DISABLED? DAP? CAN'T GET OUT?
or anyone who just needs extra help!
Can't come to us, we'll come to YOU
We will bring 100s of carpet samples and bed brochures to your door

Divan Beds Single from £96 Double from £160	80/20 Wool Twists from £8.99 sq yd WAS £22 sq.yd.	Quality Double Memory Foam bed RRP Was £899 Now £299	Wiltons from only £8.99 sq yd
--	---	--	--

PLUS... UP TO 75% OFF many instore items!
We will beat your BIG Superstores

Click on-line for many great prices - www.ablecarpets.co.uk

Free quotes and Planning Warehouse Unit, 0 Dormston Trading Est., Burton Road, Gornal DY1 3TD
OPEN: MON-SAT 9.30-5.00

STOURBRIDGE PEDMORE Brierley Hill WORDSLEY QUARRY BANK LYE WOLLESCOTE KINVER

FREEPHONE 0800 0853747 COVERS ALL AREAS **Adrian Bromley 01902 880541**

OPEN SUNDAYS 10am-3pm Terms & conditions apply

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE festive specials of *Celebrity Mastermind* (BBC1) were a timely reminder that a) you can be a celebrity without anybody knowing who you are, and b) celebrities can get on *Mastermind* without knowing much about anything.

JIM Naughtie on Today (Radio 4) takes this winter's prize for being the first to warn us of "freezing frog."

LEAVING aside any concerns about Whitehall's latest plan to turn women into trench-fighting soldiers, aren't you a wee bit depressed at headlines such as "Female troops on the front line by 2016"? I hope by 2016 we won't have any front lines.

HIGHLIGHT of the festive viewing for me was yet another repeat of *The Muppet Christmas Carol*. When the film was released in 1992 the cast came to Birmingham on a promotional trip and I got to chat in a hotel bedroom with Miss Piggy, Kermit and the Great Gonzo. Best interview ever.

OUR changing language. Or to be more accurate, the Yanks' changing language. The US news channel CNN carries an online report about the Nigerian families whose girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram terrorists. It is headlined: "Holidays Without Our Missing Girls." The distraught mother of one girl said: "It is a bad Christmas." The father said: "Every Christmas, we used to be complete and happy." The whole essence of this story was about loss at Christmas. No-one said a word about "holidays." But in the United States the word Christmas is deemed to be non-inclusive and politically incorrect. So they insert the word "holidays" instead, even when the result is gibberish.



FAT, flabby, wheezing, unhealthy. It is hard to move through the sales crowds without concluding that we Brits are a grossly unfit bunch. So when the Defence Secretary Michael Fallon (who has never served a day in uniform) declares: "Our armed forces should reflect the society they serve," he is spouting dangerous nonsense. Our armed forces should be the toughest, strongest, brightest young men and women

we can possibly recruit. We want Her Majesty's finest, not the Queen's Own Lardasses.

IF, like me, you are suspicious of anything connecting you, or your money, to the internet, here's something new to worry about. We all know computer webcams can be switched on by a malicious virus without the owner's knowledge. A reader writes of his fears about a new generation of smart televisions with voice-command function. Once you agree to the terms and conditions, the software is installed and you can change your internet-connected TV to a new channel simply by asking for it, via a microphone within the set. My reader asks: "If the microphone is active, what else might be transmitted from one's living room or even bedroom? How long would it take a hacker to override any safeguards, or am I being paranoid?"

WHY does God allow innocent shoppers to be mown down and killed by a lorry in Glasgow? Within hours of the tragedy a reader who describes himself as a Christian emailed me: "Many people (non-Christians) find it difficult to accept that God does things His way which is not the way they would like. However, this has to be accepted and not doing so is in itself a sin." So that's all right, then. And if you don't think it's all right, you're a sinner. If you reckon the Islamic State is a tad extreme, you'd be amazed what some Brits believe.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Vandals daub graffiti on railcars

VANDALS targeted the popular Stourbridge Shuttle by daubing graffiti over the railcars.

Operators are counting the cost of getting it fully removed.

Staff discovered a break-in at the Stourbridge Junction depot and found the two vehicles had been scrawled in graffiti.

Some travellers were forced to use replacement taxis as police were called and windscreens cleaned.

The service was soon up and running as normal but not before full repair work was carried out.

The attack is believed to have happened some time between 11.45pm on Christmas Eve and 4.30am on Saturday, December 27.

PreMetro Operations Ltd runs the service in partnership with London Midland. Operations director Steve Jasper said: "At some stage someone has broken into our

depot and did what they did. We are gutted."

Chief Executive Phil Evans added: "To say we are upset and annoyed is an understatement.

"Hopefully, the Police investigation will lead to those responsible being caught and prosecuted."

Anyone with information can call British Transport Police on 0800 405040 or text 61016. Or, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Grffiti is scrawled on a railcar

New Year honours for unsung heroes

COMMUNITY stalwarts, charity volunteers, athletes and lawyers are among those to have been honoured in the New Year Honours List.

Unsung heroes from across the Black Country are celebrating after been recognised with the prestigious accolades.

Long-serving volunteers are among those to have been honoured for their work, with Norris Hill, of Coseley, receiving an MBE for his work with the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd Ministry.

Mr Hill has been involved with the group from the very beginning, and was recognised by the organisation about 15 years ago when he was made a Companion of the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd, one of only 30 people internationally to receive the honour.

The 78-year-old, who had a heart attack last year and has had to reduce his workload, also volunteers with Active Heart, the cardiac rehabilitation programme.

Mr Hill said he was 'absolutely gobsmacked' by the honour and added: "When I opened a letter from 10 Downing Street to say they had awarded me an MBE for the work I did, I didn't do it for any rewards, it was absolutely out of the blue."

Framework

Also receiving an OBE is former West Bromwich Albion player Brendon Batson – one of the so-called 'Three Degrees' – for services to football.

Jatinder Kumar Sharma, the principal of Wall-sall College – the first general further education college to receive an Outstanding from Ofsted under the new inspection framework – has been awarded the OBE for services to Further Education.

MBEs have been awarded to Gordon Stuart Guild, aged 76, for his voluntary political service; Oldswinford's Chris Fonteyn, aged 64, for services to the community in Stourbridge, including his work with the RNLI and the National Trust and Alan James Harvey, of Dudley, for political service.

Waqar Ahmed, from Dudley, was also awarded an MBE for his services to challenging extremism and empowering communities in his role as prevent manager at Birmingham City Council.

His work involves tackling extremism across the spectrum, which includes Muslim extremism and right wing extremism.

He is employed by the Home Office to conduct this work.

He said: "I am very humbled to receive this honour which I see as recognition of the collective contribution by all those who work



Norris Hill, of Coseley, awarded an MBE



Jessica Gripton – British Empire Medal



Chris Westwood, aged 66, receives the MBE in the New Year's Honours List

tirelessly every day in trying to make our communities safer in Birmingham and across the West Midlands, often through very difficult and challenging circumstances."

Chris Westwood, 66, has also received an MBE. He set up The Chris Westwood Charity to help children in the Black Country with physical disabilities, after being appalled by the costs racked up by existing charities and the money taken from donations. Since 2003 it has provided more than £250,000 to help underprivileged families purchase mobility equipment.

Jessica Gripton, aged 83, who carried the Olympic torch through West Bromwich in 2012, receives the British Empire Medal for services to sport. Mrs Gripton, secretary at Old Hill Tennis Club after more than 30 years of organising matches, has dedicated her spare hours to encouraging young people to take up the sport and also played a key role in the campaign to rebuild its clubhouse after it burned down in 2000.

The medal has also been awarded to John Harvey Deane, for services to the community in Dudley.

Armed robbers in raid on station

MASKED thieves armed with crowbars and a sledgehammer targeted a Coseley petrol station, stealing cigarettes, alcohol, and cash tills, police have revealed.

They burst into the BP garage in Birmingham New Road before escaping in a green Volkswagen Golf.

The car's registration plates had been covered up in a bid to make it more difficult for police to trace the vehicle.

Police have revealed details of the raid, which took place at 3.40am on December 20 as part of an appeal for witnesses.

Plastic

PC Chris Dixon said: "The escape vehicle had its registration plates covered up with plastic, so it may be that people noticed this car in the area.

"If you saw anything or knows anything that could help us to catch these offenders please call us."

The station in Coseley is the latest in the Black Country to be hit.

In November a gang armed with axes and sledgehammers targeted the Kings service station on Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley.

Call police on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Rail group in extension call

A RAIL group says a line in the Black Country should be extended to give passengers wider travel options.

The Stourbridge Line User Group wants the section of railway accessible from the town's train stations to be extended south of Worcester.

Members are frustrated that people travelling to the south west must get trains from Birmingham.

Group Spokesman Bob Randle said: "Many of our trains only go as far as Worcester. Some should be extended to Cheltenham and Gloucester."

Bus service saved

A BUS service from Stourbridge to Bridgnorth has been saved after a takeover. Central Buses will run the former Whittles 125 service, which stops at Kidderminster and Bewdley. An extra hourly service between Kidderminster and Stourbridge will also be launched.

SALE MUST END THIS SATURDAY 4PM COMPLETE STOCK CLEARANCE

Traditional Suite In Wine..... Was £1199 **Now £499**

Modern 2 Seater Suite Was £999 **Now £499**

Used 2 Seater Sofa **£99**

Corner Group Was £1199 **Now £699**

Cherry hanging Corner Cabinet **£69**

Sofa Beds **from £249**

Queen Anne Chair **Now £199**

Reo Sofa **Now £499**

Milan **INCLUDING FREE FOOT STOOL** **SPECIAL OFFER £189**

Recliner Manual Electric Recliner Electric Lift & Rise

No Reasonable Offer Refused

Up To 80% Off our Traditional Furniture

Sofa Style - your local furniture store in Stourbridge

Sofa Style, Chatsworth House, Hayes Lane, Lye. DY9 8RD Tel: 01384 892018 www.sofastyleupholstery.co.uk Mon-Sat 10 am-4 pm

MP backs campaign for young donors

AN MP is backing call to step up a campaign for more young people to register as bone marrow donors.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin is supporting the Anthony Nolan charity which is offering to pay the Government to package information on registering as a donor with the National Insurance card, which is sent to everyone just before their 16th birthday.

Younger people are most likely to be chosen by doctors to donate bone marrow to someone with blood cancer, but only four per cent of registered donors are currently aged between 16 and 20.

Revenue

Mr Austin has written to Lin Homer, the chief executive of HM Revenue and Customs, urging her to support the proposals.

He said: "This is a simple step the Government can take to boost the number of young people signed up as life-saving bone marrow donors.

"There's no reason why bureaucracy should get in the way of this plan when charities are willing to cover any extra costs, so I've written to the Government urging them to take part."

Cemetery to open shortly

COUNCIL bosses say a new £200,000 cemetery in Dudley will be open for funerals by February.

Hundreds of plots are being created off Cleve Road, opposite the current Dudley Cemetery. It aims to tackle the shortage of burial space in the borough and will have enough space to last more than 20 years.

It will include 1,000 adult plots, 140 smaller plots, space for 150 cremations and will be able to cater for all religious needs. Councillors are now in the final stages of a £200,000 landscaping project.

Police meeting

RESIDENTS can air their views at a police meeting later this month.

A forum for the Stourbridge area will take place at St James Church Hall, Belfry Drive, Wollaston.

The meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, January 28, at 7pm.

Toy shop to trade on under new owners

THE owner of a long-established Dudley toy store has announced a new buyer has come forward to save the business

Alan Caswell is leaving the Arcade Toy Shop he has run for nearly 40 years to retire in March.

It comes as work to revamp the Fountain Arcade where the shop is based continues. Mr Caswell decided to step down after being concerned the work would cause too much upheaval at his shop.

Many customers who have grown up with the shop were saddened to hear it may be going for good.

But Mr Caswell has revealed that he has a buyer who wants to take over the toy shop.

A family will take the reins in March but Mr Caswell says he will stay around to support them.

Family

"A new family is coming in and the toy shop will go forward," said Mr Caswell, who started work at the shop 50 years ago with Saturday shifts.

"I have already got an idea of the view we will have from this shop over Stone Street Square when the original windows are put

back in again in the New Year, it will be fabulous. The windows were bricked up in 1971 by a previous arcade landlord and I can't wait to see them opened up again so we can enjoy that great view over Stone Street Square towards the museum."

The arcade is home to independent traders including a bakers, a butcher, florist, card shop, cafe, jewellery shop, men's outfitters, a sweet shop and ladies hair accessories shop.

Dudley Council's Townscape Heritage has worked with the traders to help renovate the locally listed Art Deco building,

which stretches from Tower Street to the market place and dates from 1925.

Work is being carried out with grant assistance through the Dudley Townscape Heritage Initiative, supported by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Dudley Council, English Heritage and the Housing and Communities Agency.

The project includes repairs to windows and stonework, as well as reinstating lost architectural features, such as opening up the blocked windows, reinstating stone details to the pediment on the gable and installing new shop fronts.

Disgust as vandals chop down Queen's Jubilee tree

A TREE planted to honour the Queen during her Diamond Jubilee was chopped down by vandals on Christmas Day – the day Her Majesty addressed the nation with a message about the importance of reconciliation.

The chairman of a voluntary group dedicated to preserving the park in Dudley where the beech tree stood has spoken of his disgust. Geoff Johnson, chairman of the Friends of Netherton Park, said he believed youths had cut down the tree, worth around £250, on Christmas Day and then dumped the branches in a park bin.

Mr Johnson said: "Somebody has premeditatedly taken something along to chop it down. What amazes us so much is the fact that we paid so much for the tree and on the day that the Queen was getting huge viewing figures for talking to the nation and Commonwealth, somebody goes up there and chops down a tree planted in her honour."

Search for fall victim at Wrens Nest

A MAN faced a prolonged rescue after he fell down an embankment a popular Dudley beauty spot.

Specialist rescue teams and firefighters spent two hours trying to locate the man in Wrens Nest Nature Reserve after the fall.

Emergency services were called to the reserve at around 2.15pm on Sunday to help the man who was complaining of pelvic pain.

An ambulance together with a paramedic officer and the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) from West Midlands Ambulance Service attended.

Spokesman Steve Parry said: "A man in his 20s was located and treated for pelvic pain."

"The patient was assessed at the scene before being brought to safety after a two hour search to locate him."

"The HART team worked with ambulance and emergency service colleagues to bring the man to safety."

Crews from Dudley fire station also helped in the rescue bid.

The man was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital for further treatment.

He added the Jubilee tree had been planted in 2012 along with an Olympic tree to commemorate the London Games. Both have been targeted by vandals in the past.

Jobs have ripped off plaques from both trees. The plaques bore the words 'planted by the Friends of Netherton Park to commemorate' with either 'the Olympic Games of 2012' or 'the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty' to complete the inscription.

The latest incident was discovered by a friend of Mr Johnson's wife, who reported finding the Jubilee beech dumped in the bin.

Mr Johnson could not say whether the tree and plaques would be replaced as the Friends charity was concerned about the possibility there would be a repeat of the attacks.

Let's face it, it's time to restore clock



Martin Fisher with the clock which used to be at Cradley Heath Bus Station and is being restored

IT stood at the heart of a busy transport interchange for decades and was seen by hundreds of commuters daily.

Now the Cradley Heath clock is to be restored and preserved by volunteers at a museum in the Black Country.

The four-faced clock is more than 16 ft tall but has had to move to make way for the £1.9 million overhaul of the bus station.

Aston Manor Road Transport Museum in Aldridge was approached by

Centro as to whether they would like to take instrument which dates back to the 1980s.

Keen volunteers will now set about repairing one of the damaged clock faces and look to put it up outside their base in Shenstone Drive or modify it for inside.

Chairman Martin Fisher said: "They didn't want it to be just chucked away and so it was offered to us and we accepted."

"There are lots of people that have

seen that, in the context of catching the bus and seeing that clock.

"It is the whole essence of the transport museum, it is not just the vehicles. It is all the things associated with these vehicles."

Walsall councillor Richard Worrall, a member of Centro, approached the museum to see if they wanted to take the clock.

He said: "I was asked if I knew anyone, and I thought that is a great place to relocate it."

Muslims march in celebration

MORE than 1,000 people joined a parade through the streets of Dudley as Muslims came together to celebrate the birth of the prophet Muhammad.

They met at Dudley Central Mosque for the event on Sunday lunchtime as flag and banner waving families and friends set off from the mosque, on Castle Hill, before returning to the mosque for the Milad-un-Nabi celebrations.

Homes will be built on former care site

TWENTY two homes will be built on the site of a former care home in Stourbridge.

Eight houses and 14 apartments for adults with learning disabilities will be built on the site of Amblesote House.

Bromford Developments Limited has been granted permission for the scheme by Dudley Council.

Playgroup praise

A PLAYGROUP that meets at a Dudley church has been praised following an Ofsted inspection.

Standards at Kingswinford Methodist Church, in Stream Road, were rated as outstanding.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

STEAMED UP DOUBLE GLAZING? Don't replace the Frames... just the Panes!

Broken or Damaged Windows? Faulty Hinges, Handles or Locks? Want The Latest Energy Saving Glass?

All Glazing Backed By Our 5 Year Manufacturers Guarantee



Priority Freephone 0800 61 21118
www.cloudy2clear.com

...we make saving money perfectly clear...

IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

KEANE flips! So screamed the headline of one national tabloid after it emerged that the fiery former Republic of Ireland star had sought a confrontation with Villa on-loan midfielder Tom Cleverley at his home.

Apparently, Keano – to those not familiar with The Beautiful Game, he is the one with the beard like Saddam Hussein while he was on the run – thought Cleverley was behind newspaper stories about training-ground bust-ups during his short-lived spell as Villa's assistant manager.

So how did Keane flip exactly? Did he:

(a) Grab Cleverley in a headlock, lift him over his shoulder, and then slam dunk him on top of his water feature?

(b) Confront him in his kitchen, slap him about a bit with a fresh kipper, before continuing the fight outside, culminating in a spot of grappling in the swimming pool?

(c) Ring his doorbell 'very aggressively' and wait outside, before deciding Cleverley was not at home and driving off.

The answer, by the way is (c).

Not exactly Keith Moon, is he?

□□□

A judge has granted an injunction to stop boy racers wreaking mayhem on the streets of the Black Country and surrounding areas, saying there appeared to be 'complete lawlessness' around the problem. The move follows a similar injunction which was granted in 2012.

It is hardly a new problem. I remember it first rearing its head around 15 years ago, when hundreds, if not thousands, of the blighters used to meet up around the Merry Hill centre and neighbouring industrial estates every Thursday nights.

During the research for one story about this, I even had to buy a copy of a boy racer magazine which had allegedly been encouraging these meets.

Boy, that took some front. I sat for around five minutes outside the newsagents in my totally conventional and unmodified car, trying to work out a strategy for buying this dubious publication without feeling too embarrassed. I dunno, maybe buying a few 'adult' magazines to hide it in or something.

Anyway, the magazine did cast a rather fascinating light into this bizarre sub-culture. For example, it came with a free CD featuring timeless tracks such as 'Big Up Your Spill' or 'Time To Get Ill'. Like you hear in the background at all the best dinner parties.

Strangest of all was the fact that many of the people who attended these meetings were not from the vicinity at all.

Some of them would diligently drive their garish-looking vehicles all the way from places like Brighton or Leeds just to experience the delights of a Thursday night at a KFC car park in Brierley Hill.



Sarah Redding with Pierre, a hissing cockroach



Gemma Warboys with Ronnie the tapir at the zoo



Monkey business – baboons are counted up at the zoo

Zoo tapir tally and cockroach count

Like the Biblical Noah's Ark the animals of Dudley Zoo are all counted in for the attraction's annual census

"HAS everyone got a calculator and clipboard? Then let the counting begin."

Those were the final instructions issued to the keepers at Dudley Zoo who have been preparing for a week like no other.

Workers are being kept busy, carrying out the mammoth task of counting each of the animals as part of the annual census.

There are more than 1,800 creatures at the 40-acre site and now every invertebrate, bird, mammal, amphibian and reptile is being totted up. From the most minuscule ants to the tallest giraffe – it will all be documented.

The zoo is obliged to keep an official tally of its animals every 12 months as part of its licensing requirements, with the census taking five days to complete.

Rather than it being the case of hoping the all the animals keep still long enough to be counted, the task is thankfully made a little easier for most of the zookeepers.

Microchipped

Many of the animals, including Madagascan lemurs and a red-necked wallaby, are microchipped, like domestic cats and dogs, and can be individually scanned with a hand held scanner. Others, like the reindeer and Barbary sheep have ear tags while birds have flipper bands or coloured foot rings which contain individual codes, making them fairly easy to count up.

Bigger animals such as the Sumatran tigers and giraffes are easily identifiable by their unique patterns and coats and can be totted up in a matter of minutes – a change in number of such large animals is not something that would go unnoticed.



One of the zoo's workers getting a head count on the sites flock of flamingoes

Those responsible for larger animals have it easier than their colleagues in charge of insects, spiders and other tiny critters.

The stick insect's party trick of blending into its surroundings isn't appreciated by the keepers at this time of the year.

There were around 120 stick insects at the attraction at the last count, though separating the wood from the trees can be tricky. They can also breed continually, meaning the total can fluctuate from one day to the next.

The zoo's chief executive Peter Suddock said: "It always poses a few problems when it comes to stick insects as not only do they move around as staff are attempting to count them, but they

also have a camouflage habit of clinging to keepers' clothing usually just out of reach on backs and shoulders."

Penguins can be tricky too, he added.

"Dudley Zoo is home to the UK's largest colony of parent-reared Humboldt penguins and with 66 constantly moving birds sharing the pool and beach, the annual headcount can take time."

Dudley Zoo's numbers have been boosted by a host of new arrivals that are being counted for the first time.

They include 11-month-old male Rothschild's giraffe Kito and eight-month-old Carpathian lynx triplets Dick, Dom and Daphne. Malaku the snow leopard was born in April to the delight of zoo staff.

Mum and dad Nanga and Margaash's first cub had died suddenly less than 12 months earlier. Gelada baboons Billie

and Ambo also swung into the zoo, while Boo the chinchilla was another new arrival. But while the many births were greeted with much cheer, there was also sadness with the deaths of two of the zoo's heavyweights.

Favourite

Census veteran Orry the Patagonian sealion, a favourite with visitors, passed away in July at the age of 22.

The zoo also lost male Asiatic lion Mwamba, only a year after being brought in from Devon.

All zoos and wildlife parks in Britain are required to carry out the yearly census. The data is used for zoo management and international breeding programmes for endangered animals.

It also provides a back up for the site's Zoological Information Management.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THEY'RE coming to a street near you. It's election year and pretty soon MPs, candidates, activists and hangers-on are going to canvas you.

It sounds a bit sinister, like some form of guerilla art. But for some reason it just seems like the right thing for any aspiring politician to do – to connect with the electorate.

It all seems a bit unfair to me because they'll descend with no prior notice or appointment and might well interrupt dinner or at a crucial moment in the Breaking Bad box set.

Even so, if they do come along, use this chance to grill them because it's been half a decade since we had a General Election and it's about time they were properly put on the spot by the people they serve.

I'm looking forward to May because after that we'll hopefully have a Government that's actually getting on with the business of governing, rather than just going through the motions for the next few months while parties try to curry favour with an ever-more-weary electorate.

Parliament has run out of things to do. This is because of a little thing known as the Fixed Term Parliament Act, which effectively sets the date for a General Election at exactly five years since the last one.

In order to create a 'strong and stable' coalition with the Liberal Democrats, David Cameron dispensed with the Prime Minister's right to decide when the time was right to go to the country.

But the Tories and Lib Dems have exhausted the things they can agree on and are now trying to distance themselves from each other.

The Lib Dems are effectively finished around these parts. In the May 2014 council elections the party found candidates to stand in a mere 27 per cent of wards.

Even in Cannock Chase, where the party was the largest group four years before, they found just six candidates for 13 seats.

David Cameron likes to refer to this as the most important election in a generation. He may have a point.

What we're dealing with here is a re-hash of 2010 when the country delivered a hung Parliament. Back then it was compared with the election of 1974. But with the uncertainty that created, Harold Wilson went back to the country again before the year was out and was rewarded with a majority of three. The Fixed Term Parliament Act stops that.

We get one shot at saying who we want as our MP for the next half a decade. Before that, it's up to them to bombard us with leaflets, promises and scare tactics. But that moment in the polling station is all you have until May 2020 unless MPs vote to dissolve Parliament. That's why this election is so important.

GASWAY Ltd.

Est 1976



Open since 1976 Gasway has been your first choice for Gas Fires, Surrounds, Cookers and much more, all at competitive prices.

Why not visit Dave, Jon and the team today for FREE expert advice and quotes.

- Cookers Supplied and Fitted
- Gas Fires and Fire Surrounds
- Electric Fires and Fire suites
- Central Heating Systems Supplied and Fitted

For complete peace of mind and a friendly service, why not visit Gasway in Lower High Street, Stourbridge DY8 1TA. 01384 372246

- Servicing Spare Parts
- Fire Guards / Companion Sets
- All at competitive Prices



Nature is raw-fanged and red-toothed

I have long believed Peter Rhodes to be somebody posturing as being attuned to rural life, labelling his cottage, or whatever it maybe, as 'Chateau Rhodes'.

He makes comment in a recent column that David Cameron wants to make foxhunting with hounds legal again and opines that it would be political suicide.

I have no idea of the political leanings of ordinary folk or landowners in

rural areas, no more than Rhodes probably does. But I think the majority are pretty well in accord in trying to get the present foxhunting ban repealed.

Regardless as to whether he is a farm labourer or a farmer, the loss of a chicken in the back garden or the slaughter of lambs in a field by a fox has an impact. The fox is vermin, not a lovable rogue as people like Rhodes would possibly have you believe. A fox will randomly kill not only for food but for the enjoyment of slaughter.

Whatever Rhodes might believe in his sanitised world of state-of-the-art

wood burning stove, most of those who work the land would concur that hunting with hounds is a far more efficient way of keeping the fox population down than shooting them.

Let those who manage our wildlife and countryside adopt the best methods of controlling wildlife that is less than eco-friendly.

And Rhodes, chuck your green wellies in the bin.

**J B WALDRON
DUDLEY**

Petition in bid to open rail route

WOULD your readers like to support those of us who have been asking for the full length of the Black Country Rail Line to be re-opened over very many years? My petition is at: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/73031>

The line connects with the national rail network at Stourbridge Junction and Walsall and goes near to Merry Hill, the Waterfront, Dudley Zoo and Castle, the Black Country Museum and Dudley Canal Trust.

Birmingham has had so much spent on it and is still getting further tram extensions to replace the buses and to link with HS2.

We, in the Black Country, should now be asking for our 13 miles of national train line to be re-opened to boost business, leisure and to bring people in from all over the UK to our four Black Country boroughs.

**T WELER
HALESOWEN**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

**Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES**

F-MAIL

**Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk**

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Touching memory of a choral tribute

OF the hundreds of concerts I have been part of, as a chorister with the Gentlemen Songsters for almost 40 years, there are two which stand out most in my memory.

One was singing in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen for the opening of the NIA Centre, Birmingham, and the other was during a visit to the war graves at Normandy and Arnhem. The choir's oldest singing member is 90-years-old second tenor Albert Evans. Albert was only 18 years when he served in the Army and became friends with a fellow soldier who was a few years older. Albert looked up to him and they became mates. Sadly Albert saw his friend be killed at Arnhem.

With the help of then choir chairman Tony Partridge they found Albert's friend's grave. Albert wasn't alone shedding his tears standing at the foot of the grave saluting his comrade. He had the choir sharing his grief. Before leaving that day the choir sang *Morte Christe*. I then heard a voice call out loud and clear: 'thank you gentlemen'. Could it, I wonder, have been the voice of God?

J GRAINGER
STOURBRIDGE

Dark nights and dim road users

I will be glad when the days draw out and we get light nights again. I am fed up with seeing cars with defective lights and people walking about in dark clothing.

ing about a dark clothing. I was driving along Friar Road in the direction of Wolverhampton. Just as I breathed the rise by the new estate, a car coming towards me pulled onto the bay near to the shops on my left. This person had his headlights on full beam, which dazzled me as a car driving on its correct side came the other way with only a nearside headlight on. This gave the possible impression of a motorcycle. Two offences in one incident, parking on the wrong side of the road and defective headlights.

My wife was driving at Bromley when a youngster on a cycle, wearing dark clothing and with no lights, rode between us and on-coming traffic.

P COLE
KINGSWINFORD



**QUALITY COACH HOLIDAYS
THROUGHOUT BRITAIN,
IRELAND & EUROPE**

**Freephone
0800 002 9788**





WINTER WARMER IN TORQUAY

Mon 2nd - Fri 6th February 2015

Only - £139.50 pp

- 3 STAR RAINBOW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL
- 4 NIGHTS DINNER, BED AND BREAKFAST
- 2 FULL DAY EXCURSIONS INCLUDED
- EXTRA COMFORT COACH SEATS & EXTRA LEGROOM

FORTHCOMING HOLIDAYS

FEBRUARY

2nd - 6th	TORQUAY WINTER WARMER	£139.50
16th - 20th	WARNER'S LAKESIDE RESORT	£239.50

MARCH

7th - 8th	BLETCHLEY PARK WEEKEND BREAK	£129.50
9th - 13th	LLANDUDNO SPLENDOR	£285.00
16th - 20th	BOURNEMOUTH & SALISBURY	£269.50
21st - 22nd	TOWER OF LONDON & HAMPTON COURT	£139.50
23rd - 27th	CHARMING SLOUGH	£299.50
28th - 29th	SETTLE - CARLSBIE RAILWAY	£115.00
30th - 3rd APR	NORTH DEVON DELIGHTS	£229.50
30th - 3rd APR	TENBY & SCENIC PEMBROKESHIRE	£325.00

APRIL

3rd - 6th	EASTER IN PARIS & MONET'S GARDEN	£275.00
6th - 10th	YORKSHIRE DALES & HARROGATE	£379.50
8th - 12th	OLDE-WORLDE SHANKLIN	£359.50
10th - 12th	"CALL THE MIDWIFE"	£199.50
13th - 17th	EASTBOURNE & SOUTH DOWNS	£275.00
13th - 17th	ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT	£289.50
17th - 19th	OSTEND WEEKEND & BRUGGE	£189.50
18th - 19th	NWM DUXFORD & BLETCHLEY PARK	£139.50
18th - 19th	GREAT ENGLISH GARDENS & PALACES	£129.50
24th - 27th	DUTCH BULFIELDS & AMSTERDAM	£359.50

GREAT DAYS OUT all admissions included

FEBRUARY

	Adult	Over 60's
5th	NEWARK ANTIQUES FAIR	£35.00
10th	BATSFORD ARBORETUM SNOWDROPS	£34.00
12th	MYSTERY DAY OUT & LUNCH	£35.00
14th	HARRY POTTER STUDIOS TOUR	£59.50
16th	BROOKLANDS MOTORSPORT MUSEUM	£36.00
17th	BLETCHLEY PARK	£39.50
18th	NATURAL HISTORY OR SCIENCE MUSEUM	£27.00
19th	CHESTER SHOPPING & SIGHTSEEING	£24.00
19th	CHESTER ZOO - UK'S NUMBER ONE ZOO	£37.50
20th	LLANDUDNO SEASIDE & SEA AIR	£25.00
21st	BBC TOUR AT MEDIA CITY Salford	£35.00
22nd	THE VIEW FROM THE SHARD	£51.00
24th	CARDIFF SHOPPING & SIGHTSEEING	£25.00
26th	TATE MODERN ART GALLERY LONDON	£27.00
28th	HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT	£41.00

MARCH

1st	ELVIS EXHIBITION AT THE O2	£45.00
17th	COTSWOLDS & AVEBURY MANOR (NT)	£35.00
19th	ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY FACTORY	£25.00
24th	CORONATION STREET THE TOUR	£44.00
26th	WELSH HIGHLAND STEAM RAILWAY	£41.00



LONDON THEATRE WEEKENDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR STARTING FROM £139.50 pp

- * LUXURY COACH TRAVEL WITH JUST 42 SEATS
- * 4 STAR HOTEL WITH BED & ENGLISH BREAKFAST
- * SAT NIGHT THEATRE TICKET TO ALL THE TOP SHOWS
- * VISIT TO COVENT GARDEN ON SUNDAY MORNING

Phone For A Brochure or find All Our Holidays & Day Tours On Our Website

www.grouptravel.ltd.uk

GROUP TRAVEL HOUSE, Audnam, Stourbridge, DY8 4AG Tel : 0800 002 9788

Take advantage of our
NEW YEAR OFFERS
Call us today for your FREE Quote and Survey...

Dudley

Turn Your Home into a Castle
DOORS, WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES



Fitted
£2,595
 inc. VAT

5
'A' Rated Windows

PLUS
 a choice of Deluxe composite Door



HUGE RANGE OF STYLES AVAILABLE

Fitted
£6,195
 inc. VAT

FULL RANGE OF DOORS

UPVC COLOURED	UPVC FRONT DOOR	UPVC BACK DOOR	THE LATEST DESIGNS
FITTED from £550	FITTED from £450	FITTED from £400	FITTED from £740

we are Rock door installers

Some fitting dates for Christmas*

10ft x 10ft 3m x 3m
 Choice of tiles, double sockets or light fittings

WOLLASTON SHOWROOM

Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm | Sundays and Bank Holidays by appointment

DON'T DELAY... VISIT OR CALL TODAY!

Tel: **01384 292484** | Mobile: **07772 131 678**

2E High Street, Wollaston, Stourbridge DY8 4NH
www.dudleydoors.com

Certass Insurance 10 year guarantee

Over 40 Years Experience



The Haden triplets and the Williams and Oakley Twins sitting on a wall



Street party in Stickley Lane for the Coronation in 1953



Archie Williams with blind coalman Ebenezer Turner, leaning on the van



Cliff Richard visits Robert Street School, Lower Gornal



The 1955 Carnival Queen, Wendy Smith, with her attendants

Local author Ned is grabbed by Gornals

NED Williams first ventured into The Gornals, to watch The Beatles' Help! at the Alexandra Cinema almost 50 years ago.

He had no inkling then that years later he would be publishing a book about the area. The trip, in 1965 introduced the now 70-year-old author to Upper Gornal, Lower Gornal and Gornal Wood - where "Furriners" from outside the villages were looked at with confusion and nobody ever had any reason to leave.

Mr Williams has written 50 books about the Black Country, covering everything from local railways to cinemas, theatres and chapels.

His latest turns a spotlight on the three villages - known locally as The Gornals - and their people, places and history.

The father-of-two, who has lived in Wolverhampton since 1974, said: "It's an area that hasn't been properly covered yet."

MEMORY LANE

Report by Matt Growcott

"Other books tend to write about the larger towns.

"I have been trudging the streets stopping people and asking for stories and photographs. It is backed up with research.

"It's always great when you can find pictures in the past that relate to people and places that are still around to see. There are lots of characters."

Take, for instance, the mystery of William Jones. According to the book, during the early 1900s, Jones sold lamp oil, drapery and bedding from his shop in Lake Street, Lower Gornal. He had his own branded horse and cart and claimed to trade in places as far reaching as London.

In 1904, at only 34, Jones vanished, never to be seen again. His wife, Jane, continued to run the business, before selling it six years after her husband's disappearance.

Today the building is used as a hotel and is owned by the church.

Throughout its history, a number of successful businesses have been built across The Gornals. It's part of the reason why these villages became so isolated, and why so many of the older generation spent their entire lives rarely stepping out of its borders.

So isolated were these villages that a couple from different parts of the Gornals is jokingly referred to as a mixed marriage.

Upper Gornal's Spring Farm Dairy had a fleet of vans and a strong force of milkmen delivering, according to the slogan embossed on their bottles, "pure, rich, safe milk." Edward Pyatt owned the dairy, as well as a garage, a shop and a farm. He had started out as a miner, but dreamed of a life farming animals.

The Gornals has been published by Uralia Press and costs £13.50. It is available from Bywater News, in Upper Gornal, Waterstones, WH Smith or call Mr Williams on 01902 773376.



Miriam Marson, nee Pyatt, outside Edward Pyatt's shop

We offer a door replacement service...

but why settle for replacement doors when you could have a brand new kitchen for a similar price?

Call us for a quote on both options!



This brand new kitchen complete with all base units, drawer pack, 40mm laminated worktops, handles, Soft close hinges, plinth, cornice and pelmet as illustrated.

Excludes appliances and fitting.

£2200 Including VAT

*Conditions apply - details available on request

Managers deals of the week



ONE ONLY

Bosch DWA06E650B
60cm Chimney Hood

£249 Was £430

Hotpoint HM31AAEF
Built In Fridge Freezer

£399 Was £523

ONE ONLY

Schock Lithos
1.5 bowl composite sink
available in
nero and colorado

£179



ONE ONLY

reduced

CAPE
Wine Cooler
W6114

£249
Was £515



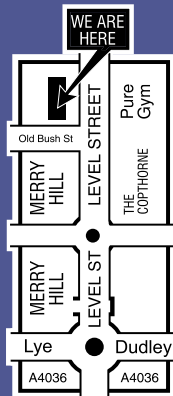
FINANCE*
OPTIONS
AVAILABLE

Old Bush Street,
off Level Street,
Merry Hill
DY5 1UA.

Next to Avanti
Bedrooms.

OPEN

Monday to Friday
10am - 5.30pm.
Sat 10am - 5pm.
Sun 10am - 4pm.



Kitchen Clearance Centre

Make sure you compare our prices before you purchase elsewhere!

www.kitchenclearancecentre.com Tel: 01384 262303

Jail for eight cousins in car parts export racket

EIGHT men from the Black Country – including two from Dudley – are behind bars after cars across the Midlands were stolen to order, dismantled and the parts shipped to the Middle East.

The gang, all cousins, was sentenced for a conspiracy to steal 4x4 Toyota and Vauxhalls, which they would scour the streets of the Midlands for on demand.

The men appeared at Worcester Crown Court after pleading guilty to conspiring to steal motor vehicles and were jailed for a total of 28 years and nine months.

The court heard there were 81 thefts and attempted thefts throughout Staffordshire, West Midlands, Warwickshire, West Mercia, Derbyshire and Leicestershire between March 2012 and April 2013.

Targeted

Predominantly Toyota Hilux, Toyota Hiace, Toyota Landcruiser and Vauxhall Brava vehicles were targeted.

They were taken from properties across Warwickshire in Rugby, Tamworth, Atherstone and Kineton, as well as throughout West Mercia in Bromsgrove, Worcester, Kidderminster, Market Drayton, Bridgnorth and Telford.

The stolen vehicles were dismantled with the engines and gear boxes being exported to the United Arab Emirates, while the remainder of the chassis and shells were weighed in at scrap yards.

The gang had found out that the parts, in particular those from Toyota 2L engines, were in high demand in the Middle East so they set up a rapidly-expanding operation.



Rocky Butler, aged 35, from Dudley

A ninth man Yawar Jaffari, 42, from London, had links to the United Arab Emirates and acted as the go-between. He would take orders from contacts abroad and pass them on to his accomplices in the Black Country, who then stole whatever had been requested.

The vehicles were taken to the Cannock Wood Industrial Estate in Cannock Wood Street, where the men worked from three units.

They started out at a site in Torton Paddock, Kidderminster, owned by Rocky Butler, of Fullwood Crescent, Dudley, but needed to move to bigger premises as demand rocketed.

All eight men had grown up together in Blakenall, Walsall. Once they got involved with Jaffari, they began stealing the cars and within weeks had a regular export line running.

Detective Constable Karl High, of West Mercia Police, said: "This was a lengthy investigation. This sentencing should serve as a warning that vehicle crime will not be tolerated."



Richard Edwards, of Brierley Hill

Leslie Taylor, 33, of Rosewood Court, Bilston, was jailed for four years; Butler, 35, got five years and four months; James Bailey, 36, of Edison Road, Walsall was sentenced to five years and four months; Richard Edwards, 29, of Chapel Street, Brierley Hill to two years.

James Taylor, 26, of Harden Close, Walsall was jailed for two years and eight months; Terence Gould, 46, of Botany Road, Walsall, for two years; Colin Brookes, 30, of Hunter Crescent, Walsall was sentenced to two years and Paul Kendall, 42, of Irvine Road, Walsall to a year and four months.

Luke Moore, 26, of Leys Crescent, Brierley Hill and Gary Winter, 31, of Goscote Place, Walsall, were previously convicted and sentenced.

Moore received a suspended sentence and Winter was jailed for 16 weeks. Jaffari, 42, of Carlton Road, London, got three years and nine months.

tinkable
medical beauty clinics

15 Years of Experience and Results



15 years of experience & results

Aesthetic Treatment Clinic for Non Surgical Rejuvenation



Tel: 0800 432 0480 or 0333 577 3734

www.tinkable.com Quote TINK10 for 10% off
(until the 31st January 2015)

RYDALE

CELEBRATING OVER 29 YEARS

**WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES, ORANGERIES,
PORCHES, FASCIAS & SOFFIT BOARDS
SUPPLIED & FITTED TO ALL AREAS
ACROSS THE MIDLANDS**

***You can be sure you have
made the right decision!***

**WINDOW, CONSERVATORY, PORCH,
FASCIA & SOFFIT NEWS**

How has Rydale built up an excellent reputation?

It's simple customers' satisfaction and quality. The quality of Rydale's product, the quality of all Rydale personnel and the unbeatable service given to the public is second to none. No wonder Rydale has so many satisfied customers, just look at the facts. Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry. No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, that's why we have been in business for more than 29 years. Rydale Windows security features make our windows super safe. We have a wide range of products on display at our purpose built showrooms and factories situated in Long Lane, Halesowen.

Our window and conservatory advisors are available in our showrooms weekdays from 9.00am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9.00am to 4.00pm. At Rydale we feel that it is very important to see products on display before you make your final decision to purchase.

We invite you to come into our showrooms to view all our products available, the showrooms are here for you the customer. At Rydale we do not take any deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed. Rydale has been a trusted brand in our area for over 29 years. If we give you a guarantee we will always be here to honour it.

Can that be said of any other company in the area? Rydale also offer a Supply Only service on all products including free delivery.

**ULTIMATE
SECURITY
GUARANTEE**

Rydale take security
very seriously
Guaranteed high
security on all products
Full details on request



Repair Service available

**Winter Sale
NOW ON**

**Visit one of the largest
conservatory and
window showrooms
in the UK**

**Finance
Available**

At Rydale we care about the
customer, spend your money wisely

**Massive
Discounts**
on all orders placed now for
January installation

FREEPHONE 0800 917 6060

OPEN WEEKDAYS 9 AM TO 5.30 PM, SATURDAY 9 AM TO 4 PM, SUNDAY CLOSED

Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen, B62 9LS
www.rydalewindows.co.uk



10 **UP TO**

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, January 8, 2015

January Sale

Offer available at time of quotation only

% OFF*

... yes you read it correctly. To celebrate the fact that for 33 years we have been installing quality windows, doors, conservatories and orangeries, we are offering up to 33% off* on all orders placed in our Winter Sale up to the end of January 2015, with the added advantage of not paying until January 2016 (terms and conditions apply).

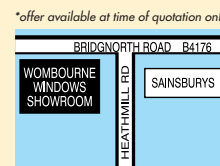
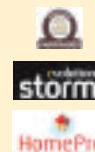
Wombourne Windows

Orangeries and Conservatories



For more information call us now on **0845 6030334** (Local Rate)
or visit our website at **www.wombourne-windows.co.uk**

Morlock House, Bridgnorth Road, Wombourne, South Staffs WV5 0AL



Showroom Opening Hours: **Monday-Thursday 9am-6pm Friday 9am-5pm Saturday 10am-3.30pm Sunday closed**

Art made in the eye of a needle is going on display

TINY pieces of art which sit in the eyes of needles or on top of pinheads are to go on display in Birmingham.

The sculptures, created by Willard Wigan, who grew up in Wednesfield, are so minute they are only visible through a microscope.

Now Willard Wigan's tiny pieces of art, which are crafted between heartbeats so as to minimise hand tremors, are set to go on display for two weeks.

The renowned micro-sculptor is launching the exhibition at the Library of Birmingham on Sunday, with part of the proceeds earmarked to support community programmes.

Mr Wigan, aged 57, first became interested in micro-sculpture at the age of five when he began making houses for ants because he thought they needed somewhere to live. Since then, the self-taught artist has per-

fectured his craft, with owners of his works now including HRH Prince Charles, Sir Elton John, Sir Philip Green, Lord Bath, Mike Tyson and Simon Cowell.

His most recent piece, the Coronation Crown, was requested by HRH Queen Elizabeth II as part of her Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Mr Wigan received an MBE for services to art in 2007, said: "As a child, I escaped into a fantasy world.

"Now local children have the Library of Birmingham on their doorstep, with free access to millions of stories to fuel their imaginations.

Tickets for the Through the Eye of a Needle exhibition can be booked at www.birmingham-box.co.uk or on 0121 2454455.

To see the more of his amazing micro artwork visit the willard-wigan.com website.



The micro-sculpture of Cinderella that is to go on show in Birmingham

Drink-drive purge sees 164 arrested

MORE than 160 people have been arrested for drink-driving as part of the Christmas campaign.

West Midlands Police kicked off its festive drink and drug driving campaign on December 1, with 164 men and women pulled over and arrested in about four weeks.

As part of this year's campaign every person charged with drink or drug driving is named on the force website for a week, in a bid to raise awareness and make drivers stop and think before possibly breaking the law, and remind them that a conviction can carry a prison sentence between three months and 14 years.

It has seen more than 90 people charged to appear before the courts, accused of drink driving or failing to provide a sample for analysis.

The force said last year the web page was viewed more than 41,600 times.

Inspector Greg Jennings, who is leading the West Midlands annual road safety campaign, said: "We have decided to again name everyone who has been charged with drink or drug driving offences in a bid to make people think twice before acting recklessly."

Programme helps turn round lives of families

THE lives of almost 4,000 troubled families in the Black Country and Staffordshire have been turned around, according to new figures.

The Government's Troubled Families programme, introduced in 2012 identified tens of thousands of households across the country which needed help. Of 4,850 in the Black Country and Staffordshire defined as 'troubled', 3,914 have received help as a result of the scheme.

Troubled families could mean youngsters causing anti-social behaviour, or who truant regularly, or who have an adult on out-of-home benefits.

The scheme also helps get children back into school, adults into work and turns people away from crime.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said the changes would mean more economic stability across the country.

Security

In total 85,303 families have benefitted from the scheme - 99 per cent of those identified two and a half years ago.

Mr Pickles said: "The Troubled Families programme demonstrates exactly what our long-term economic plan means for people, new opportunities for families to turn their lives around and make something of themselves. More economic security for local communities blighted by worklessness and more economic stability for taxpayers, as we reduce the bills for social failure and

By Tim Spiers

get this country living within its means."

Staffordshire has the most 'turned around' families with 1,179 of its 1,390, while Wolverhampton has turned around 617 of 810.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander added: "I am proud that this programme is delivering real results, having helped turn around the lives of families by putting children back into school, cutting anti-social behaviour, and moving adults into work.

"It's great news that more than 85,000 troubled families in England have seen real, tangible improvements in their lives thanks to this programme, and that 99 per cent of eligible families are being actively worked with."

Head of the Troubled Families programme Louise Casey added: "To have turned around the lives of over 85,000 troubled families - who have an average of nine serious problems each - in two and a half years is a credit to the councils, the frontline staff and most of all to the families themselves."

Deprived areas get slice of £12m boost

FOUR boroughs hit with high unemployment have been awarded a slice of a £12.8 million grant to help residents find jobs.

Social housing estates in struggling wards in Dudley, as well as in Walsall, Sandwell and Wolverhampton are to benefit from the cash that has come from the Government's City Deal initiative.

It was launched to improve the job prospects of residents in deprived wards. The money will be used to help thousands of young unemployed and disadvantaged families living on council estates to improve their skills.

A total of £2.8m will be spent through schemes to be set up in Darlaston South and Bilston East, in Wolverhampton as well as in Princes End, Sandwell and Kates Hill, Dudley.

Bosses at West Bromwich based social housing landlord Accord Group successfully submitted a bid for the funding for the five-year Working Together programme.

the winter sale
EXTRA DISCOUNTS
OFF ALL SALE PRICES

ENDS THIS SUNDAY 5PM

It's your last chance to take advantage of the extra discounts off all sale prices throughout the stores.

With huge reductions on every single item, there's never been a better time to save on furniture, carpets, beds, homewares and much more.

Including all the famous brand names.

Buy now and pay nothing until summer - not even a deposit - interest free.

Final few days - This offer ends Sunday 5pm.



Alberta leather 3 seater sofa
NORMAL £1399 SALE £899

EXTRA DISCOUNT PRICE £799 SAVE £600



Muse 3 seater sofa (including scatter cushions)
NORMAL £799 SALE £449

EXTRA DISCOUNT PRICE £399 HALF PRICE



Hamilton extending table and 4 chairs
NORMAL £879 SALE £499

EXTRA DISCOUNT PRICE £449 SAVE £430



VISIT OUR EXTENSIVE RANGE OF
Carpets, Flooring & Rugs

Columbia luxury stain resistant carpet - choice of 20 colours
NORMAL £12.95m² SALE £5.95m²

EXTRA DISCOUNT PRICE £4.95m² LESS THAN HALF PRICE

LOW SALE PRICES. PAY NOTHING UNTIL SUMMER. NO DEPOSIT. INTEREST FREE.

Cousins

a true family business

Open 7 days a week

Late Nights: Tuesday & Thursday until 8pm

Birmingham
Warwick Road,
Tyseley, B11 2EW.
T: 0121 765 3300

Dudley
Hall Street
DY2 8NW.
T: 01384 451500

Manchester
A57, Regent Rd,
Salford, M5 4EA.
T: 0161 875 4070

www.cousinsfurniture.co.uk

0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

Deferred Interest Free Credit available on all orders over £500. Subject to status. All balances must be paid in June 2015 on the date specified at the time of purchase. Written details on request. Offer not available on clearance items, online offers and in-store concessions. Some items are subject to one per household and only available in limited colours, or the colours shown in this advert. Prices in this advert are valid until 11th January 2015 except where stated. See website for Price Promise details.

PRICE PROMISE

Our price promise to you, we won't be beaten on price! *

- Free parking
- Instore restaurant
- Large stocks
- Immediate delivery

celebrating 29 years



Homes on way at Guest site

PLANS to transform part of the site of a Victorian hospital in Dudley into a development of more than 200 homes have hit further delays, with work now not expected to start until the end of 2015.

Dudley Guest Hospital, in Tipton Road in Dudley, was put in the hands of the Home and Communities Agency (HCA) for a major residential development seven years ago, when most of its NHS services ended.

Wates Living Space was appointed developer for the £30 million project four years ago but mine shafts and limestone workings have caused delays for the scheme.

The HCA had hoped a planning application would be submitted to Dudley Council last year, but now expect one to be lodged this summer.

Parish council anger over funding going to neighbours

HAGLEY Parish Council has hit out after some of the cash it says it should have received because of development in the village was given to neighbouring parishes.

Hagley councillors are angry that money, which has been provided by developers building in the area, will now be split up between them and nearby Belbroughton and Clent.

The money, which is to come from Cala Homes and from Billingham and Kite, has been provided to help local services, such as medical practices and community centres, to grow to cater for new residents who will move into

the homes being built off Kidderminster Road and Western Road. The funding, which will be handed over by the developers once construction is complete, has already been allocated by Bromsgrove District Council.

Surgery

Hagley Parish Council Chairman Steve Colella said that although some residents of the new homes will use services in nearby Clent and Belbroughton, the overwhelming majority of residents will use Hagley Surgery, which he believes the funding should be sent.

The new homes could create an extra 800 to 900 patients for the GP surgery. Currently, the practice has 7,200 patients, at capacity with about 1,800 patients per doctor.

Councillor Colella said: "It is extremely urgent that the extension of the Hagley Surgery should be fully funded."

"The funding has been split with Belbroughton which has also sought to have the Glebeland Medical Centre enhanced despite being expected to only receive an extra 100 patients."

Councillor Colella said: "There is not enough money to go round. If Hagley Medical Centre is not extended, we believe Hagley healthcare will be severely compromised due to an excessive pressure on facilities."

Data from NHS England shows that approximately 92 per cent of patients in Hagley are registered with the Hagley Surgery, compared to just eight per cent at the Belbroughton Surgery.

Parents hit by holiday fines

MORE than 2,800 fines, totalling more than £171,000 have been dished out to parents for taking children out of school in term time in just over two years.

This school year 342 fines of £60 a time have been sent to people whose children took an 'unauthorised leave of absence' either to go on holiday or for another reason.

Council leaders are calling for a change in the law to restore the rights of headteachers to use their discretion on whether or not to grant a leave of absence.

Hard-pressed families are going away in term time because the costs of a holiday shoot up when schools are closed.

Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act showed there were 1,038 fines handed out in Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Staffordshire in 2012/13. The figure rose to 1,472 the following academic year.

Dudley fined 254 parents in 2013/14 and 226 in 2012/13.

SALE

FREE
Sound Bar
with selected TVs*

Sony 50" Smart 3D LED TV
APP Store With Catch Up TV & Movies, Freeview HD, Built in WIFI
Plus Free Sony HTCTC60 Sound Bar & Free 5 Years Warranty on TV
Model: KDL50W829B
Many more great offers available please call.
Price £799.99

our most
amazing offers
ever...

Art of popping up with app for display



With the app is gallery assistant Elizabeth Broadway

POP art has been teamed with popular technology as Wolverhampton Art Gallery embraces digital media.

The gallery has created the free Pop Europe! app, which acts as a pocket guide for the exhibition of the same name.

Connie Wan, the exhibition's curator, said the gallery received a £64,000 grant from the Esme Fairbairn Collections Fund to host the Pop Europe! exhibition, which included the development of a digital project.

Dr Wan said there were lots of things they had wanted the app to do, and choosing what to include had been the biggest challenge.

"We have never done anything like an app before so it was a good opportunity to experiment," she said. "We thought it was about time we caught up with digital technologies. We had six months to put it together."

Those who download the app and show it at the gallery can also get a free hot drink from the cafe.

Pop Europe! explores the Pop Art movement beyond America and Britain, and is on at the Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, until February 7.

Concert venues set for a £10m revamp

NEW windows and doors are to be installed at Wolverhampton's Civic Halls ahead of a major revamp.

The Civic and Wulfrun, which are set to have £10 million spent on them, are among the leading music venues in the West Midlands.

Under plans submitted to Wolverhampton City Council, both halls would be fitted with new large and small windows, while the Wulfrun would be given a new entrance too. According to the plans, the single glazing windows at both halls are no longer suitable, with some becoming unstable during windy weather and concerts.

There has also been incidents where glass panes have fallen on to pavement outside the venues, while bosses say poor sound-proofing has led to complaints.

The Wulfrun Hall's main entrance doors, frames and lights would also be replaced for easier access in emergencies.



112-119 Reddal Hill Road, Cradley Heath, West Midlands B64 5JN
Tel 01384 566497
Free Car Park & Free local delivery.
www.chapmanselectrical.co.uk

Don't be disappointed - choose Choices Windows

The home improvement market is changing and the demand for more choice in colour and suitability of PVC-U doors and windows is growing. Fashionable additions such as orangeries are increasingly desirable, as more people look for ways to improve their home.

Established since 1994, Tipton Windows & Conservatories Ltd, trading as Choices, believe that the latest trends are important, but quality products and exceptional service will always be paramount, which this family run business have proven over nearly two decades.

Situated on Sedgley Road West in Tipton, the founder and company Managing Director Nathan Beddows started the business from scratch at the early age of 19 working out of the very same premises as he does today. He explains his passion:

"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 19 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and

installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

Fitting new PVC-U windows can be a good choice for the environment as well as for your home. Replacing dated double glazing can help save money on heating bills and reduce the carbon footprint of a residence.

"We offer A-rated energy-efficient windows and doors which can help save up to £250 from heating bills in the first year alone. They not only reflect heat back into the house, but also retain heat from solar gain," remarks Nathan.

"As a company we pride ourselves on giving old fashioned value for money and excellent service, we can undertake the majority of jobs and because we manufacture in house at our premises unlike the majority of our local competitors it enables us to have full control so we can manage your project from start to completion ensuring your experience is stress free".

"After many years in the Double glazing business we have seen a lot of competitors come and go, unfortunately leaving many customers without any warranty, after parting with their hard earned cash. Any customer who is considering having any home improvements should choose carefully and do their homework on the company they are considering, ensure if you part with money upfront it is protected by a Fensa approved deposit indemnity scheme, ask to visit previous customers but most importantly don't be fooled by the salesmen's tactics of a tempting "sign on the night low price offer" that the double glazing industry is notorious for," advises Nathan.

The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

To view the Choices website click onto www.choiceswindows.co.uk or call in and see our new refurbished showroom and factory on Sedgley Road West Tipton, DY4 8DQ.



Happy New Year from Choices

Place your order now for a FREE survey and fitting throughout January

Call now and get your order in before the end of January



More Choice with Choices

- Orangeries
- Conservatories
- Windows/Doors
- Bi-Folding Doors
- Triple Glazing
- Roof Trim
- Sash Windows
- Conservatory Refurbishment

Full Service Available
All work carried out by our own Team of Qualified Fitters

Professional Survey prior to work commencing

- Brickwork • Plastering • Electrics
- Tiling • Plumbing • Underfloor Heating

Choose the company that can do it all

TRIPLE GLAZING SAVE UP TO 28% ON YOUR HEATING BILLS



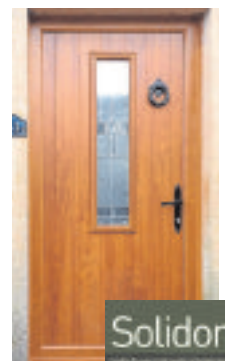
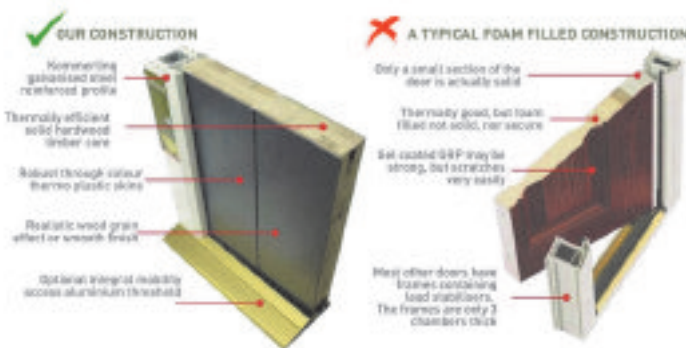
Installing Triple Glazing can save you up to 28% per year on your Heating Bills compared to traditional windows. As Triple Glazed units are up to 40% more Thermally Efficient than Double Glazed units, this will help to reduce your energy Bills and your Carbon Emissions. Plus with our flexible Low Rate Options Funding you could Triple Glaze your Home for just £78.50 per month

THIS PORCH FROM £2,795



WHAT MAKES SOLIDOR THE BEST COMPOSITE DOOR ON THE MARKET TODAY

Solidor has lots of unique features and market firsts that aren't available on any other composite doors, including 17 colours inside and out, the most secure locking system with Secured By Design Accreditation, but probably the most important difference is the fact that the door is made from a **48mm thick solid timber core** which gives you the strongest and most secure option available in a residential door.



Solidor

Choices WINDOWS

Telephone 0121 557 7228

Showroom at: Sedgley Road West, Tipton DY4 8DQ

Visit our website at www.choiceswindows.co.uk

Hagley Kitchens

Beautiful Kitchens & Bathrooms, Designed with Imagination and Skillfully Fitted with Care



"A beautiful new kitchen..."

We are so pleased we chose Hagley Kitchens - for Graham and his team nothing was to much trouble...*Thank you!* **Tony & Beryl Rhead - Halesowen**

"Like magic everything was in place... tiling, electrics, and beautiful appliances... a fantastically designed kitchen. Graham made everything simple" **Audrey Basterfield, Hasbury**

"They gave us our perfect kitchen, a great local company." **Sandra Donnelly, Kingswinford**

"The kitchen of our Dreams, we made so many changes but all was completed with so little fuss... I love showing off my new kitchen to everyone!!" **Norah & Chris Painter, Pedmore**

"A major project completed on time without any problems at all" **Gill McKenzie, Codsall**

Guaranteed unbeatable on price

See some of our range of beautiful Modern and Traditional kitchens at: www.HagleyKitchens.co.uk

INSTALLATION • TILING • GAS • ELECTRIC • PLUMBING • BUILDING



Call Graham Edmonds for your FREE, no obligation new Hagley Kitchen's design
07776 207596
or 0121 602 3031

Thousands turn out for traditional hunt



Crowds gather as participants set out on the Boxing Day Albrighton and Woodland hunt at Hagley Hall

MORE than a thousand people turned out for the annual Boxing Day Albrighton and Woodland Hunt in Dudley.

More than 60 riders took part in the 350-acre grounds of Hagley Park, near Stourbridge.

Hunt secretary Julian Hill said: "We usually hunt two to three times a week but the Boxing Day hunt is very special and it is always successful. We have lots of people come

along to stretch their legs and shake off Christmas." The Albrighton and Woodland Hunt covers parts of Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and the West Midlands bordering Stourbridge, Dudley and Halesowen.

Despite a ban on fox hunting 10 years ago, hunts continue using 'trails', where hounds follow the scent of foxes without any foxes being harmed.

Tributes to police sergeant

A TOP Black Country police officer has died after battling cancer for nearly a year.

Steve Knight, aged 54, who grew up in Dudley, was a sergeant based at Wolverhampton's Bilston Street police station and had served with West Midlands Police for 23 years, originally as a Pc in his

home town. He joined the force after spells as an engineer and salesman.

He leaves two adult children Kayleigh and Chris, as well as stepsons Jordan and Connor.

The Wolves fan, a regular at Molineux, was diagnosed with cancer in January last year.

He married his second wife Jackie in March 2013 but they had been in a relationship for

eight years. Paying tribute to her late husband, Mrs Knight, 47, said: "He was a loving family man and did everything for his family."

"He was gentle and loved his job and put all his effort into it. He brought me great happiness."

Hundreds of family, friends and colleagues attended his funeral at Streety Crematorium.



Sgt Steve Knight

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

Cars, Caravans, Household Goods etc.



ONLY

£19.50
FOR 6 NIGHTS

PLUS 6 nights Free if you do not sell!

Includes one week online and your local Chronicles

TELEPHONE - 01902 317878

ON LINE - www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

IN PERSON - At your local Express & Star office

*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10.2012. Private advertisers only.

Buy Local, Sell Local
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

CUT OUT THE MIDDLE MAN SAVE UP TO 70% OFF HIGH STREET PRICES



Make the switch

Join 1,000s of satisfied customers that have...
AND SAVE £££'s

The Spectacle Store

Bring your prescription or book an eye test. Call and save!

3 Mill Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 2RG - 01384 484446
264 Castle Street, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1LQ - 01384 252903
37 Capehill, Windmill Lane, Smethwick, West Midlands B66 4RX - 0121 558 1621

NHS Vouchers Welcome



EXTRA DISCOUNT



now **£349** SAVE £650
 Modern large sofa in brown bonded leather.
 WAS £999 SALE PRICE **£499**

EXTRA DISCOUNT



now **£399** SAVE £400
 Light oak effect dining table & 4 chairs.
 WAS £799 SALE PRICE **£499**

EXTRA DISCOUNT



now **£599** SAVE £600
 Large double reclining motion sofa.
 WAS £1199 SALE PRICE **£749**

EXTRA DISCOUNT



now **£399** SAVE £300
 Oak bedroom package... double bedframe & bedside chest
 WAS £699 SALE PRICE **£519**



EXTRA discount
 off our already low **SALE PRICES**
EXTRA Savings offer ends Sunday 5pm!



What's New Jan – Mar 15

OVER 20 YEARS OPERATING AS A SWIM SCHOOL AND ADULT EDUCATION PROVIDER

Learning 4 Life
Dawn to Dusk - Naught to Ninety

The Wordsley School
Brierley Hill Road, Wordsley Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY8 5SP

LANGUAGES

FRENCH

Beginners:	Thurs. 15 Jan.	18.00-19.00.	10 wks.	£55.20#
Improvers:	Tues. 13 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#
Inters:	Mon. 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#
Advanced:	Thurs 15 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#

ITALIAN: BEGINNERS

	Mon 12 Jan.	12.00-14.00.	3 wks.	£27.00#
--	-------------	--------------	--------	---------

ARABIC

	Mon 19 Jan.	17.00-18.30.	9 wks.	£47.25#
--	-------------	--------------	--------	---------

ARTS AND CRAFTS

PAINTING AND DRAWING

	Tues 13 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#
	Wed 14 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	10 wks.	£65.00#
	Thurs 15 Jan.	10.00-12.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#
	Thurs 15 Jan.	13.30-15.30.	10 wks.	£65.00#

WATERCOLOURS FOR BEGINNERS

	Mon 26 Jan.	14.30-16.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#
--	-------------	--------------	--------	---------

WIRE WRAPPED JEWELLERY MAKING

	Mon 26 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	3 wks.	£27.00#
or	Tues 3 Mar.	12.00-14.00	3 wks.	£27.00#

CONTINUING JEWELLERY MAKING

	Tues 27 Jan.	12.00-14.00	3 wks.	£27.00#
	Mon 23 Feb.	19.00-21.00.	3 wks.	£27.00#

FOLK ART

or	Tues 13 Jan.	14.30-16.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#
	Mon 23 Feb.	19.00-21.00	3 wks.	£27.00#

CREATIVE WRITING

	Mon 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	5 wks.	£35.00#
--	-------------	--------------	--------	---------

FACE PAINTING AND GLITTER TATTOOS

Beginners:	Thurs 15 Jan.	19.00-21.00	6 wks	£41.00# (£13.75)
------------	---------------	-------------	-------	------------------

HANDICRAFTS

UPHOLSTERY

	Mon 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	10 wks.	£68.00#
	Tues 13 Jan.	12.00-14.00.	10 wks.	£68.00#
	Wed 14 Jan.	12.00-14.00.	10 wks.	£68.00#

PATCHWORK - Improvers

	Mon 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00	10 wks.	£68.00#
	Wed 14 Jan.	14.30-16.30	10 wks.	£68.00#

PATCHWORK - Beginners

	Tues 13 Jan.	14.30-16.30	10 wks.	£68.00#
--	--------------	-------------	---------	---------

SEWING MADE SIMPLE

	Thurs 15 Jan.	18.00-20.00.	10 wks.	£65.00#
--	---------------	--------------	---------	---------

HOW TO USE A SEWING MACHINE

Beginners	Tues 3 Feb.	09.30-11.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#
-----------	-------------	--------------	--------	---------

HOW TO USE AN OVERLOCKER

	Tues 13 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#
--	--------------	--------------	--------	---------

RAG RUG MAKING

	Tues 13 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#
--	--------------	--------------	--------	---------

DANCE

CHANCE TO DANCE FIT—TASTER

	Tues 13 Jan.	19.00-20.30	1 wk.	FREE
--	--------------	-------------	-------	------

CHANCE TO DANCE FIT

	Tues 20 Jan.	19.00-20.00	9 wks.	£31.50#
	Tues 20 Jan.	20.00-21.00	9 wks.	£31.50#

BALLROOM & LATIN AMERICAN DANCING

Beginners	Mon 12 Jan.	18.45-19.45	10 wks.	£36.60
Improvers	Mon 12 Jan.	19.45-21.00	10 wks.	£54.90

HEALTH AND FITNESS

PILATES

Beginners:	Thurs 15 Jan.	18.00-19.00.	10 wks.	£35.00#
Beg. @ Oakfield:	Fri 16 Jan.	10.00-11.00.	10 wks.	£37.80#
Improvers:	Tues 13 Jan.	19.00-20.00.	9 wks.	£31.50
Improvers:	Wed 14 Jan.	18.30-19.30.	10 wks.	£35.00
Improvers:	Thurs 15 Jan.	19.05-20.05	10 wks.	£35.00
Improvers:	Thurs 15 Jan.	20.10-21.10.	10 wks.	£35.00

FITNESS YOGA

	Tues 13 Jan.	20.05-21.05.	9 wks.	£31.50
--	--------------	--------------	--------	--------

ADULT SWIMMING LESSONS:

Beginners:	Mon. 12 Jan.	19.00-19.45.	10 wks.	£31.50#
Improvers:	Mon. 12 Jan.	19.45-20.30.	10 wks.	£31.50#
Inter/Adv	Mon. 12 Jan.	20.30-21.15.	10 wks.	£31.50#

QUALIFICATIONS

DUDLEY INDUCTION TRAINING FOR POOLSIDE ASSISTANTS

	Fri 27 Mar.	09.00-12.00	3 hrs.	£19.20
	Mon 15 Jun.	09.00-12.00	3 hrs.	£19.20

LEVEL 2 AWARD IN FOOD SAFETY IN CATERING

	Thurs 15 Jan.	17.30-21.00	2 wk.	£48.00^
--	---------------	-------------	-------	---------

LEVEL 3 EDUCATION AND TRAINING AWARD

	Thurs 29 Jan.	18.00-21.00	15 wks.	£290.00^
--	---------------	-------------	---------	----------

EMERGENCY FIRST AID

	Mon 19 Jan.	09.00-16.00	1 day.	£38.40
--	-------------	-------------	--------	--------

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID

	Fri 6 Feb.	09.00-13.00	1/2 day.	£25.60
--	------------	-------------	----------	--------

FIT FOR '15 TASTERS

FITNESS YOGA TASTER

	Tues 6 Jan.	19.00-20.30.	1 wk.	FREE
--	-------------	--------------	-------	------

CORE BALL TASTER

	Wed 7 Jan.	19.00-20.30.	1 wk.	FREE
--	------------	--------------	-------	------

PILATES TASTER

	Thurs 8 Jan.	19.00-20.30.	1 wk.	FREE
--	--------------	--------------	-------	------

EXTREME ABS TASTER

	Wed 14 Jan.	19.45-20.15.	1 wk.	FREE
--	-------------	--------------	-------	------

LITE4LIFE TASTER - Face your food demons

	Thurs 15 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	1 wk.	FREE
--	---------------	--------------	-------	------

MUSIC

PLAY THE GUITAR

Intermediates:	Mon. 12 Jan.	19.00-21.00	10 wks.	£65.00#
Improvers:	Tues. 13 Jan.	19.00-21.00	10 wks.	£65.00#
Beginners (1):	Thurs. 15 Jan.	19.00-20.00	10 wks.	£37.80#
Beginners (2):	Thurs. 15 Jan.	20.00-21.00	10 wks.	£37.80#

PLAY THE GUITAR FOR CHILDREN (8YRS+)

Beginners (1)	Mon 12 Jan.	16.45-17.45	5 wks.	£45.75
Beginners (2)	Mon 12 Jan.	17.45-18.45	5 wks.	£45.75
Improvers	Thurs 15 Jan.	17.45-18.45	10 wks.	£50.00

BASIC COMPUTER COURSES

COMPUTING : THE BASICS

	Tues 27 Jan.	14.30-16.30	3wks.	£27.00#
or	Tues 27 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	3 wks.	£27.00#

COMPUTING SKILLS: INTERNET+ E MAIL

	Tues 24 Feb.	14.30-16.30	3 wks.	£27.00#
or	Tues 24 Feb.	19.00-21.00	3 wks.	£27.00#

COMPUTER COURSES

(Basic computer and internet skills are required)

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR ANDROID SMARTPHONE:

	Mon 23 Feb.	12.00-14.00	5 wks.	£45.00#
--	-------------	-------------	--------	---------

PHOTOSHOP - AN INTRODUCTION (1)

	Mon 12 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	6 wks.	£54.00#
--	-------------	--------------	--------	---------

PHOTOSHOP - AN INTRODUCTION (2)

	Mon 23 Feb.	09.30-11.30.	5 wks.	£45.00#
--	-------------	--------------	--------	---------

MASTERING YOUR ANDROID TABLET

	Mon 12 Jan.	12.00-14.00	5 wks.	£45.00#
or	Mon 23 Feb.	19.00-21.00	5 wks.	£45.00#

BUYING AND SELLING ON E-BAY

	Mon 19 Jan.	19.00-21.00.	4 wks.	£36.00#
	Wed 21 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	4 wks.	£36.00#

AN APPLE A DAY KEEPS THE FEAR AWAY

	Learn to master your Apple I-Pad	Tues 27 Jan.	09.30-11.30.	6 wks.	£54.00#
--	----------------------------------	--------------	--------------	--------	---------

CONTINUING FAMILY HISTORY

	Mon 12th Jan.	14.30-16.30	5 wks.	£45.00#
--	---------------	-------------	--------	---------

AN INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY HISTORY

	Mon 23 Feb.	14.30-16.30	5 wks.	£45.00#
--	-------------	-------------	--------	---------

Funded by
Skills
Funding
Agency



Reduced Fees: Where you see this # sign the course is supported by The Skills Funding Agency. If you are in receipt of certain benefits fees are reduced to 25%. Price in brackets () includes additional costs.

Course Dates: Courses are suspended during 16th –22nd Feb. 2015 unless stated otherwise

This programme is subject to change: particularly if we are unable to recruit minimum class numbers.

^ Accreditation fee included where you see this sign.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that this programme and the pricing is accurate at the time of publication, changes and errors may occur. We reserve the right to amend details as required.

FAMILY LEARNING

The price includes a place for one adult (aged over 19) and a child.

TEACH YOUR CHILD TO SWIM

Children 18 mths-4yrs	Fri 16 Jan.	10.30-11.15.	9 wks.	£33.75#
-----------------------	-------------	--------------	--------	---------

DAD AND CHILD—MOTHERS DAY WORKSHOP

Ages 7-11	Mon 9 Mar.	15.45-17.15.	1.5hrs.	£5.00
-----------	------------	--------------	---------	-------

EASTER CRAFT WORKSHOP

Ages 6-10	Mon 16 Mar.	15.45-17.15.	1.5hrs.	£5.00
-----------	-------------	--------------	---------	-------

LEARNING4LIFE SWIM SCHOOL

Spaces Available for January!

Term Dates:

Monday 5 Jan 2015 to Sunday 29 March 2015
Exc. Mon. 16 Feb. to Sun. 22 Feb. 2015

Cost:		11 wks
First Steps, Pre Beg, Beg, Improver		£46.75
Intermediates 1, 2 and 3		£40.50
Rookie, W. Skills, L'saving, S & Swim		£50.85

We operate at different times 7 days a week

NEW—FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

(Additional costs for the workshops to be confirmed)

MAKE YOUR OWN DEVORE SCARVES

	Fri 16 Jan.	09.30-12.30	3 hrs	£20.00
--	-------------	-------------	-------	--------

MINDFULNESS

Mind-body approach to overcome negative thoughts and stress.

	Fri 23 Jan.	09.30-12.30	3 hrs	£20.00
--	-------------	-------------	-------	--------

INTRODUCTION TO RAG RUG MAKING

	Fri 30 Jan.	09.30-12.30	3 hrs	£20.00
--	-------------	-------------	-------	--------

MAKE AN OWL SEWING CADDY

	Fri 13 Feb.	09.30-12.30	3 hrs	£20.00
--	-------------	-------------	-------	--------

HOW TO ALTER CLOTHES TO FIT

	Fri 27 Feb.	09.30-12.30	3 hrs	£20.00
--	-------------	-------------	-------	--------

SILK PAINT A CUSHION

	Fri 13 Mar.	09.30-12.30	3 hrs	£20.00
--	-------------	-------------	-------	--------

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

MAKE UP FOR BEGINNERS

	Thurs 29 Jan.	14.30-16.30	3 wks.	£27.00#
--	---------------	-------------	--------	---------

MEDITATION

	Thurs 22 Jan.	19.00-20.30.	4 wks.	£27.00#
--	---------------	--------------	--------	---------

FREE 2B ME TASTER

Build your confidence, self esteem and positive thinking

	Thurs 12 Feb.	19.00-21.00	1 wks.	FREE
--	---------------	-------------	--------	------

HAIRDRESSING FOR BEGINNERS

	Thurs 26 Feb.	14.30-16.30.	3 wks.	£27.00#
--	---------------	--------------	--------	---------

COMMUNITY SESSIONS

Weekly pay as you go sessions

ADULT SWIMMING: Mon. 12.30-13.15, Tues. 19.00-20.00, Thurs.19.00-20.00. All £3.00

AQUAFIT: Wed. 12.30-13.15, Fri.12.30-13.15. £3.00. Wed.19.00-20.00, Sun. 9.00-10.00. £4.00

Lavish donation to the tune of £250 for busker

BUSKER Bradleigh Aston is used to shoppers giving him their spare change – but he was left speechless by a donation to the tune of £250.

The 18-year-old was singing in Dudley High Street when he was handed the generous gift by a passer-by.

The musician, who spends his weekends busking in the town centre, says he was taken back by the woman's generosity.

Her identity is not known and despite him putting appeals on Facebook and Twitter in a bid to thank her he has been unable to track her down.

Bradleigh, from Lower Gornal, received the cash after appearing in The Chronicle – and the front page of its sister publication The Express & Star in December.

He said: "Since appearing on the front page of the paper I have had a lot of people around Dudley recognising me.

Shocked

"People have been walking past me saying 'Happy Christmas Brad, have a good one.' or 'You are that busker from the paper.' it has been a bit mad.

"The day after I was on the front page I was busking and a woman came up to me and asked for my business card which I gave to her and she walked away.

"A little while later she came back and put a plastic tub into the compartment of my case and said: 'Look after that and have a great Christmas.' and walked away again.

"When I opened the tub up, there was £250 cash in it, I was so shocked I did not know what to say.

"I have tried so hard to get hold of her to say thank you, but I am yet to hear from her.

"I would love to be able to thank her



Bradleigh Aston, aged 18, who spends his time busking in Dudley High Street

properly. I have not spent the money yet but I am thinking of spending it on recording equipment," he said.

Bradleigh came 13th in the nationwide Brand New Artist 2015 Awards competition, which was run by music label Negart Records.

He said: "It was brilliant to come within the top 15, it was out of 100 artists so I cannot complain.

"The top five get to take part in a televised festival and the top 15 get to

be part of a compilation album next year.

"I worked so hard during the competition to push myself, I had posters around Dudley and posted on my social media sites, the support from the community has been great.

"Because of working so hard, the competition sent me an email asking me to taking part in both, I am so thrilled to be given this opportunity," he said.

YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS

"Our company is owned and run by local tradesmen meaning the work is carried out properly and on time. We strive to keep our prices as low as possible in order to keep within the budgets of retired, disabled and working families which make up 95% of our customers."

JANUARY & FEBRUARY FITTING DATES NOW BEING RESERVED

YOUR ARMCHAIR GUIDE TO A NEW BATHROOM



• DECISION

Phone us for a No Obligation Quote (Daytime / Evenings or Weekends)

• QUOTATION

Design/Planning & Materials & Suite all chosen in your home & an on the spot price given.

• INSTALLATION

The Job is started & completed in around 5 days & left clean & tidy with all rubbish removed

• INSPECTION

Everything is thoroughly checked with yourself at the end of the job to your satisfaction.

• COMPLETION

Only when you are delighted with the finished job, do we accept your final balance.

• RECOMMENDATION

We hope YOUR CHOICE will be your friends choice

EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR £3850.00

90x90 Quadrant Cubicle with low level tray
15 SQM Wall Tiles
Tiled Floor
Replacement Shower
New Basin & WC

EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR OUR RETIRED & DISABLED CUSTOMERS

DISABLED SPECIAL

Are you having problems getting in & out of your Bath
We will remove the Bath & Fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle, & Tiled inside.

Supply a new replacement shower
A Folding Seat & Grab Rail

ALL FOR ONLY £2150.00

VAT FREE
IN
QUALIFYING
CASES

FOR FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE AND A WARM WELCOME PHONE US NOW TO BOOK YOUR FREE SURVEY

Unit 4, Charterfield Shopping Centre,
Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford DY6 7SH
01384 287222

Showroom also at: 39 Lichfield Road, Wednesfield,
Wolverhampton WV11 1TW
01902 861908

SHOWROOM OPEN
9am-5pm 6 Days a Week



Winter warmth

Children living in cold homes are more likely to suffer from asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory illnesses

Don't put your own or your family's health at risk this winter

Call Dudley's winter warmth service on 01384 817086

Winter warmth support
keep warm, keep well

Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council

NHS



THORNS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Stockwell Avenue, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 2NU

FOR UPDATED INFORMATION LOG ONTO www.thorns-s.dudley.sch.uk

Click Community followed by Adult Education

ALL COURSES START WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 19th JANUARY 2015

BEGINNERS COURSES * WILL RUN 30 minutes EXTRA FOR THE FIRST WEEK



Funded by

**Skills
Funding
Agency**

Courses	Wks	Day	Time	Price
Belly Dancing Beginners	10	Tue	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Tribal Fusion Belly Dancing (Imp to Adv)	9	Wed	7.45 - 9.15pm	£35.50

Computer Courses - All students need to bring a Memory Stick on The 1st night

Computers for Absolute Beginners (All Ages) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	5	Mon	7 - 9pm	£27.50
Gadget Know How - Get the most out of your Mobile Phone, Tablet, I Pad, Laptop etc	5	Mon	6 - 7.30pm	£22.00
Digital Photography Beginners/Intermediate	5	Mon	7.30 - 9pm	£22.00

Back to Work Courses - All students need to bring a Memory Stick on The 1st night

Introduction to Excel (Produce professional document for home & work) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	5	Tues	7 - 9pm	£27.50
Intro to Basic Book Keeping (Basic knowledge of Excel required) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	8	Wed	7 - 9pm	£43.00

Music Courses

Keyboards for Beginners * 6.30 - 8.30pm	10	Wed	7 - 8.30pm	£38.75
Keyboards for Mixed Abilities (Int/Adv)	10	Wed	7.30 - 9pm	£38.75
Singing for Fun - All Abilities welcome	10	Wed	6 - 7pm	£27.50
Guitars for Beginners	10	Wed	6 - 7pm	£27.50
Guitars for Improvers	10	Wed	7 - 8pm	£27.50
Guitars for Intermediates	10	Wed	8 - 9.30pm	£38.75

Creative Crafts/ Art Courses

Flower Arranging (Mixed Ability) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£55.00
Floristry (Mixed Ability) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£55.00
Learn How to Use a Sewing Machine * 7.00 - 9.30pm	8	Mon	7 - 9pm	£41.00
Sewing for Improvers - including Alterations and Recycling Textiles	10	Tues	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Art (For Absolute Beginners) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Wed	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Learn to Face Paint (Ideal for Fetes and Parties) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	5	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£27.50
Cooking for Fellas (All Levels) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Tues	6.30 - 9pm	£75.00
Woodwork for Improvers	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Woodwork for Total Beginners (Introduction into Woodworking skills)* 7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£50.00

Language Courses

	Wks	Day	Time	Price
Holiday French (Beginners)	10	Weds	7 - 9 pm	£50.00
Holiday Italian (Beginners)	10	Wed	8.15 - 9.30pm	£34.00
Holiday Italian (Improvers)	10	Wed	5.45 - 7.00pm	£34.00
Holiday Italian (Advanced)	10	Wed	7 - 8.15pm	£34.00

Holiday Spanish (Beginners)	10	Thurs	7.30 - 9 pm	£38.75
Holiday Spanish (Improvers)	10	Tues	7.30 - 9 pm	£38.75
Holiday Spanish (Improvers) Ideal for those who attended a 20 hour course	10	Thurs	6 - 7.30pm	£38.75
Conversation Spanish (Adv) ASSESSMENT BY TUTOR	10	Thurs	7.30 - 9pm	£38.75

Recreational Courses

Free 2 b Me - Make Life work in 2015 * 7.00 - 9.30pm	5	Tue	7 - 9pm	£27.50
DIET Free 2 b Me - The Diet that works from the inside out	5	Tue	6 - 7 pm	£16.50
Intro to Beauty & Nail Techniques (Ideal for Beginners) * 7.00 - 9.00pm	10	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Meditation and More (Begg) * 6.00 - 8.00pm	5	Tues	6 - 7.30pm	£ 22.00
Meditation and More (Int/Adv)	7	Tues	7 - 9pm	£36.50

Career Qualification Courses

Level 2 Emergency First Aid at Work RING FOR DETAILS ***	2	Tues	6 - 9.30pm	£48.00
Paediatric First Aid (12 hours OFSTED Requirement) ***	4	Tues	6 - 9 pm	£60.00
Basic Food Hygiene Certificate (A must if working with food) Mon, Tue or Thurs ***	2	Options	6 - 9.30pm	£48.00
British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 - Unit 102 (Price excludes Exam Fee £47)	10	Wed	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Start Your Own Business * 7.00 - 9.30pm	5	Tue	7 - 9pm	£27.50

CLUB COURSES START WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 19th JANUARY 2015

Cake Decorating (Begg) Sugar Paste, Royal Icing**	8	Mon	7 - 9pm	£55.00
Cake Decorating & Sugar Craft Club (Int /Adv) **	8	Wed	7 - 9pm	£55.00
Cake Decorating and Flower Making Club (Int)**	8	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£55.00
Free 2 b Me Level 2 - Make Life work in 2015 **	5	Mon	7 - 9pm	£55.00

FREE TASTER SESSION COMMENCING TUESDAY 13TH & WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2015

Belly Dancing Beginners	1	Tue	7 - 8.30pm	FREE
DIET Free 2B Me The diet that works from the inside out	1	Tue	6.30 - 8.pm	FREE
Free 2 b Me - Make Life work in 2015	1	Tue	8 - 9.30pm	FREE
Singing for Fun - All abilities welcome	1	Wed	6 - 7.30pm	FREE
Meditation and More (Begg)	1	Tues	6 - 7.30pm	FREE

Courses Fees include Tuition, Registration and Demonstration Fee if applicable.

Payments are in Cash only

Payable in full first night of class (Prices are subject to change)

75% Discount (Concessions) Available on Courses - EVIDENCE required first night of class

Universal Credit - Income Support, JSA, Employment & Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit and Pension Credit

** CLUBS 10% Concessions on (Universal Credit - Income Support, JSA, Employment & Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, (Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Household income of less than £16,010) and Retirement Pension **

All learners need to bring proof of UK Residency/Identification e.g. Passport, Driving licence

Where you see this sign CLUBS ** Where you see this sign No Concession ***

Where you see this sign Demonstration Fee applicable ▲



**For further Information and to reserve a place Please Contact Kay Scampton
on 01384 816243 on answer choose option 1 followed by 243 or 07764 404588**

WOODWORK

ART

COMPUTERS

SEWING

FLORISTRY

COOKING

OFFICE SKILLS

DANCING

Campaigners celebrate as historic building saved

CAMPAIGNERS have won a 10-year battle to save a Victorian school building from the threat of bulldozers.

The old Mount Pleasant School in Coseley had housed the Dudley borough archives but has been empty since the service moved into premises next to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

Campaign group Friends of Mount Pleasant – which includes several former pupils – feared the move would lead to the building’s demolition. But Dudley Council has confirmed proposals are in place to convert the site into council homes.

Brian Guest, Head Boy at the school during the 1950s, said: “The school played a vital role in the education of countless people in the area since it was built in 1879.

“We are really over the moon the council has decided to put the building to good use.”

Mount Pleasant School was open for more than a century before being taken over by the archives in 1992.

The Friends group believes it is one of the last buildings owned by Coseley Urban District Council which was abolished in 1966.

It will now be included in the council’s £40 million scheme to build around 350 council homes during the next five years. The building will be retained and converted into 15 properties.



Brian Guest and Beatrice Boyling celebrate saving the former Mount Pleasant School building

Stray dogs problem costs £60k for council

DUDLEY Council spends more than £60,000 a year on dealing with stray dogs in the borough, new figures have revealed.

During the course of the last financial year, the authority spent a total of £60,500 – which equates to around £165 a day – on lost and abandoned animals. Hundreds of stray dogs were picked up on the borough’s streets in the past year – with around half returned to their owners.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: “In 2013/14, 522 stray dogs were collected from streets in the borough and we returned 242 of these to their owners.

“Since April this year through to the end of November we had collected 265 stray dogs and returned 145 to their homes.”

Reclaimed

She added: “We invest around £10,000 each year on a kennels contract, and we work closely with them to re-home dogs when they are not reclaimed by their owners.

“To help us increase the likelihood of dogs being returned to their owners the council encourages people to identify their dog with a suitable tag bearing their name and address as well as having the dog micro-chipped,” she said.

Stray dogs found are taken outside of the borough to City Dogs Home in Bucknall, near Stoke-on-Trent, which can charge up to £60 to £70 for a week’s stay.

Recently, it was revealed that Sandwell Council spends more than £300 a day to send their dogs to the same kennels, paying out

By Charlie Benton

nearly £105,000 to Serco to pick up the dogs and take them to the rescue centre.

Half of the dogs, however, are claimed by their owners, who pay a £25 fee to the council and a £10 a day charge to the kennels for veterinary and kennelling costs.

If the dog is not claimed within seven days it is put up for rehoming.

Dudley Council has set aside a total of £61,700 in its 2015/16 budget to deal with stray animals.

It said it will not take responsibility for pets belonging to people taken into hospital or care, or those of prisoners or evicted tenants. It also has no responsibility to rehome unwanted dogs.

The Dogs Trust said 18,798 abandoned and stray dogs were picked up across the Midlands in the last financial year.

Denise Broadman, from the Dog Rescue Federation, said the problem lies not with the councils but with the issue of dog breeding across the UK.

She said: “We need to see legislation which stops the breeding of dogs where there is no demand for them.”

Youngsters urged to get ready for sport

FREE sports sessions are on offer for young people in Tip-ton thanks to a new scheme being launched this month.

Ready for Sport will provide weekly activities including basketball, football and dance training for young people at Jubilee Youth Centre, Powis Avenue.

As part of the scheme young people will be asked which sports they want to take up and which days of the week they want to do them. For 30 youngsters there will be the chance to complete leadership qualifications.

The Ready for Sport initiative encourages young people to get involved in sporting activities. Funding has been made available through the Sandwell Community Alcohol Project which won a Sport England Grant and will be working in partnership with CentreSpot.

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for health, said: “Young people can have a say in the sport they want to do and when in the week it best suits them.”

Our best ever January Sale

This January bring your kitchen upto date quickly and save money using Replacement Doors & Drawers

Save ^{over} 33%

its as easy as

one

two

free!

Why spend thousands on a new kitchen when a kitchen makeover using made to measure Doors looks just as effective at a fraction of the cost and without all the hassle - Right now with our Buy two Get One FREE January offer there has never been a better time to buy!

We will beat any 'like for like' quote

0800 088 7044

Doors & More

Often imitated, never equalled!

- Keep your units - we'll make the New Doors
- All Doors Made to Measure
- Change Worktops, Sinks, Taps etc (easily)
- Get that Fresh New Look
- Most jobs can be Done in 1 day!

Five Local Showrooms ALL OPEN TODAY!
 (Fully Staffed - No appointment necessary)

FREE DOORS
 Save over 33% with our buy Two get One Free Offer!
 (No Limit on order size)

FREE WORKTOPS
 Buy More than 8 Doors and for every 2m of worktop purchased we'll give you an extra metre!

FREE HINGES
 Act Fast! All orders placed before 21.01.2015 qualifies for FREE SOFT-CLOSE HINGES!

Easy to find
Free & Easy to park!

Showroom: Unit 8 Wordsley Green Shopping Centre Stourbridge
 01384 293654/660665
www.imore.co.uk

No.1 SINCE 2005

FreeAds

**IT'S FREE
IT'S EASY**

*Advertise any item **FREE** up to the value of **£250** go to:
www.expressandstar.com/bookanad
and simply click the FreeAds icon

NO INTERNET ACCESS? PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW

(ONE WORD PER BOX, 12 WORDS IN TOTAL)



Please note, if you wish to book an ad by phone, post or in person, there will be a standard charge of £3.00 per advert.



Name: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel No: _____

I enclose cheque/P.O. £.....made payable to 'MNA Ltd'.

Please send to: ClassifiedAds, Express & Star, 51-53 Queen St, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES.

*Private advertisers only, no guns, pets, or livestock.

Free adverts are published within 7 days of receipt, in-paper and online and are limited to 3 lines maximum

Buy Local, Sell Local
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

Announcing NEW YEAR

FUN & EASY ADULTS CLASSES! SINGLES WELCOME

Beginners Dance Classes!

COME ALONG AND HAVE A BLAST WITH THE WINNERS OF THE "UK'S TOP TEACHERS" AWARD FOR 11yrs RUNNING!

Classes start every Monday & Tuesday from 12th January! Be there!

Ballroom & Latin FAB KIDS' CLASSES!

St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Oldswinford, Near Stourbridge DY8 2HA

New Adults Beginners
Ballroom, Latin & Salsa -
Monday 7.45pm. Tuesday 7.00pm

Children & Teen's
Ballroom, Latin,
Hip Hop & Street - Mon 6.15pm

Just come along to the class, or for more info call 01902 897900 or visit www.ZigZagDance.co.uk

theticket

More Customers

On A Plate

Every Friday

To advertise your venue call one of our helpful advisors on
01902 319191

Shakespeare spoke Brummie

Book Reviews

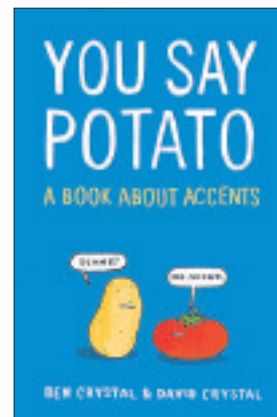
SOUTHERNERS mock the Brummie accent because they actually fear Birmingham as a rival to London. That's one of the theories in *You Say Potato: A Book About Accents by father and son Ben and David Crystal*.

In a chapter on the city, which thankfully also points out that Brummie and Black Country are different accents, they say that whilst the Birmingham accent often comes bottom of UK polls (alongside the Ulster brogue) it is popular with foreigners who find it friendly and melodic.

The authors put the blame for its dismal reputation at home on Beryl Reid for her slow-witted Brummie character Marlene in popular 1950s radio show *Educating Archie*. Jasper Carrott didn't help with his 1970s hit *Funky Moped* ("I'm gonna roide roide roide").

They suggest Brum needs TV shows or personalities to champion the accent, like The Beatles did for Liverpool or even newsreader Huw Edwards for South Wales. But they doubt *Peaky Blinders* will do the trick with its mish-mash of Irish, Northern and Midlands.

Many folks do not even realise that celebrated actress Julie Walters comes from the city. Smethwick to be exact, which being part of Sandwell and Staffordshire before that, is technically of the Black Country. This may be due to her early association with lots of Liverpool drama, or chameleon ability of the actor. But who is left to champion the accent? Frank Skinner and Adrian Chiles are both Black Country men, Liam Payne is a Wulfrunian. So that leaves... Ozzy Osbourne? Apart from the slurred accent of the Black Sabbath singer,



Linguists look at British accents

the best known Brummie voice is actor Timothy Spall, who played a character from the city in TV series *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* in the 1980s. He is from South London.

It's enough to have Shakespeare spinning in his grave, after all being a north Warwickshire lad, the Bard probably spoke with a kind of Brummie twang. Interestingly, actor Ben Crystal and his linguist father, David, both Shakespeare scholars, say the perceived 'posh' accent is a new invention that came after Shakespeare's times. Back then, when you had to speak French or Latin to impress, folks couldn't tell from your accent whether your Brummie home was a manor house or a hovel. *You Say Potato* is published in hardback by Macmillan, priced £12.99.

Other recommended recent titles: **Moriarty** by Anthony Horowitz (Orion Books, hardback, £19.99). This is a Sherlock Holmes novel with only a cameo from the Great Detective and named after his villainous nemesis ("the Napoleon of Crime"), who has apparently died with Holmes as they plummeted to their doom at the Reichenbach Falls. Foyle's War creator Horowitz, who did such a good job resurrecting Holmes and Watson in *The House of Silk*, this time gives Scotland Yard officers, so often derided by Holmes, a chance to show they've learned a thing or two from the famous consulting detective. They join an American Pinkerton agent in an investigation into the rise of a ruthless new crime boss. Horowitz does a good job of recreating the shadowy, smoggy world of late Victorian London and puts a twist in the tale. It's out in paperback in June.

Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die, compiled by Alex Werner (Ebury Press, hardback, £25). This handsomely illustrated celebration of Sherlock Holmes, his creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and 19th Century London, has been created by academics to coincide with the Sherlock Holmes exhibition at the Museum of London until April 12 this year.

The Story of the Human Body by Daniel Lieberman (Penguin, paperback, £9.99). From an evolutionary point of view, a lot of what we do today, such as sitting down all day in front of a screen, even wearing shoes, can be seen as a recent and abnormal development. Harvard professor Lieberman argues that in the digital age our lives are out of sync with our cave men bodies. Ever sitting down and reading goes against our nature... mind you, I only found that out by sitting down and reading his book. The message seems to be, don't get too comfortable... it could kill you. **Leon Burakowski**

woodrobes bespoke fitted bedrooms made in the UK

Call 01562 825033 for your FREE no obligation quote

Why Woodrobes?

Style
Traditional or modern style, classical or contemporary, we have a bedroom for you

Quality
We manufacture our own fitted furniture and sliders to maintain quality control

Choice
Our range of 25 styles and 70 finishes leaves you spoiled for choice

Service
From initial consultation to final fitting we are with you every step of the way

Expertise
Over 30 years of experience in fitting bespoke bedrooms of the highest quality

Guarantee
All our products carry a 10 year guarantee, giving you peace of mind

Classic Black This all black Ascari style bedroom has Hacienda Black doors and drawers with Gloss Black trim and is packed with features: a double wardrobe, corner unit and single wardrobe plus four drawer under-bed unit, matching bedside cabinets plus a superb media unit with cupboards and drawers.

Call in and design your perfect bedroom

Over 70 colours and finishes, 25 different styles, dozens of sliding door combinations with soft closers, touch-to-open drawers and the Woodrobes quality guarantee.

10 Year Guarantee on our products

Established 1980 www.woodrobes.co.uk 76 Mill Street Kidderminster. DY11 6XJ

Midland UPVC Windows and Doors Ltd



SAVE MONEY ON YOUR FUEL BILLS WITH OUR ENERGY RATED WINDOWS



JANUARY SALE

UPVC SALE 6 FLAT A RATED WINDOWS ANY SIZE

£1599.00 fitted

Buy Direct from your local manufacturer

FANTASTIC NEW UPVC DOOR RANGE

*We guarantee to beat
any genuine quote*



SPECIAL OFFER
PVC Door
From

£385

Fitted

synerjy

energy star

PLASTERTECH

synseal

certass



All major cards accepted Visa/Mastercard. No fees charged.

ALL AREAS COVERED **01384 234170 / 01384 429152**
UNIT 26 THORNLEIGH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, DUDLEY DY2 8UB
VISIT OUR WEBSITE **WWW.MIDLANDUPVC.CO.UK**

midlandupv@live.co.uk
OFFICE HOURS Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

22

Schools in line for investment in new buildings

FOUR high schools could be in line for multi-million pound investments for new buildings.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson has written to Education Secretary Nicky Morgan asking for new cash for Codsall High School, Ounsdale High School in Wombourne, and Great Wyrley High School.

He is also supporting a bid from Staffordshire County Council to the Department for Education to fund work at Edgecliff High School in Kinver.

Mr Williamson said: "Some of them are using what are effectively glorified temporary classrooms."

"In the case of Edgecliff, I have spoken to schools minister David Laws to emphasise the need for this investment. When you

look at all four schools we could be talking about tens of millions of pounds."

Ben Adams, Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member for Learning and Skills, confirmed a bid had gone in for Edgecliff.

Decision

He said: "A bid has been made to the Priority Schools Building Programme to fund work at Edgecliff High School, but no decision has been announced yet. The council has previously succeeded in winning funding to rebuild primary and secondary schools in the county and is also investing millions of pounds in building new schools to meet growing demand so that children can have a top class education close to home."

Thousands of jobs are axed as councils make cuts

MORE than 2,800 jobs at ten local authorities across the West Midlands have been axed over the past two years – and that's excluding the major cuts being made in Birmingham.

Official accounts for each council show almost £57 million has been spent on 'exit packages' for workers who went either voluntarily or through compulsory redundancy since 2012. The cuts have come as councils have seen their funding slashed.

Dudley Council made 210 people redundant in 2013/14 on top of 141 the year before. It cost £3.2m last year and £2.7m in 2012/13.

Neighbouring Sandwell Council lost 187 jobs in 2013/14, compared with 129 the year before. The bill came to £5.8m last year as opposed to £3.3m in 2012/13.

Wolverhampton City Council

By Simon Stone

alone made 546 people redundant in 2013/14. Of those 99 went compulsorily while the rest took voluntary redundancy. It was a bigger year for job cuts than 2012/13, when 119 went. The bill for redundancy in 2013/14 came to £6.1m compared with £1.7m the year before.

The figures are the latest available to have been audited and will not include the loss of the city council's chief executive, Simon Warren, who retired due to ill health. When he left the council scrapped the role of chief executive and promoted one of the directors, Keith Ireland, to the role of managing director.

Walsall Council axed fewer jobs in 2013/14 but at a greater cost. The figures show there were 279 redundancies in 2012/13 and 230 the year after. Costs increased from £3.4m to £4.5m.

South Staffordshire Council axed four jobs in each year, costing £96,000 in 2012/13 and £70,000 the following year. Axing 11 posts cost Wyre Forest Council £191,806 in 2012/13 while a further 13 the following year cost £156,039.

At Staffordshire County Council there were 83 teachers in receipt of 'exit packages' and 514 other members of staff, costing £12,933,146.

The year before it had been £10,644,993 for 100 teachers and 399 others.

Cannock Chase Council spent £734,000 on 16 exit packages in 2012/14, dropping to £259,000 for four the following year.

Stafford Borough Council spent £183,000 for six exit packages in 2012/13 and £18,000 for one the following year. Lichfield District Council made six people redundant at a cost of £193,277 in 2012/13 and 27 at a cost of £630,878 in 2013/14.

Campaigners want to get on with Rest



Ian Cooper, Donella Russell and Graham Harris pictured outside the former Sons of Rest building in Halesowen

CAMPAIGNERS who saved a former Sons of Rest building from demolition say they are hoping to begin work on restoring the building in the coming months.

The Hasbury Community Association (HSA) has been spearheading the campaign to save the Halesowen building. They say 'red tape' surrounding the lease of the building is currently preventing them from starting the work but hope it will be resolved soon.

Dudley Council transferred the lease of the building to the HSA last year after the group managed to prevent the authority from selling it off for demolition, although it continues to own it.

The group plans to keep the centre open after refurbishing it for the use of the community as a whole and has had interest from several community groups.

Proposed work to the building could cost the association upwards of £7,000. It was constructed in 1940s as one of five sites in the area to be used by war veterans.

Put pharmacists first for advice on health issues

BLACK Country residents have been urged to think 'Pharmacy First' when it comes to dealing with minor ailments over the winter months.

The NHS says many illnesses can be dealt with by a simple visit to see a pharmacist, rather than having to make a doctor's appointment.

A campaign has been launched across the Black Country to remind residents that pharmacists can provide expert advice on a range of ailments, including coughs and colds, flu, headache and thrush.

Pharmacist Narinder Gogna, chairman of the Pharmacy Local Profes-

sional Network said: "For the majority of minor ailments, there is a quicker and more effective way to get assessed and to access treatment without the need to visit your doctor."

"Your local community pharmacy should be the first stop for advice for a range of conditions. This will help to free up valuable GP time which can be used to deal with more complex or serious health issues."

"Community pharmacies are an excellent source of advice. Antibiotics do not help fight winter ailments and your pharmacist can get you on the right course of treatment without a doctor's appointment."

Advertisement

PUBLIC NOTICE

SALE NOW ON - SAVE UP TO 75%

Suites - Beds - Mattresses - Sofas

All reduced to a fraction of their normal price
NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED

UP TO £1,000 PART EXCHANGE FOR YOUR OLD SUITE

SOFAS AND CHAIRS MADE TO ORDER, ANY SIZE
FREE HOME DELIVERY • FREE REMOVAL OF YOUR OLD BED

LARGE SELECTION OF FABRIC AND LEATHER SUITES



3+1+1 SUITE
1 ONLY
WAS £1995
NOW £295



DINING TABLE & CHAIRS
1 ONLY
WAS £495
NOW £149



Odd Bases & Mattresses to Clear from
£69

LUXURY
4 DRAWER
DIVAN
1 ONLY
WAS £549
NOW £99



Large Selection of Rise & Recliner Chairs in
Both Fabric and Leather
from
£395

Dreamworld furniture

8 Stallings Lane, Kingswinford DY6 7HU

Tel: 01384 295660

OPEN: MON-SAT 10AM - 5PM | SUN 10.30AM - 4.30PM

**LARGE FREE
CAR PARK**



Three Piece Suites, Chairs, Beds, Carpets, Dining and Bedroom Furniture

**DESIGN
SERVICE
AND 3 YEAR
GUARANTEED
INSTALLATION**

SUMMERHILL

Kitchens & Bathrooms

**Selected Display
CLEARANCE**
up to **75% off**
Don't miss out

**50%
OFF**
BRAND
NAMES

SALE NOW ON

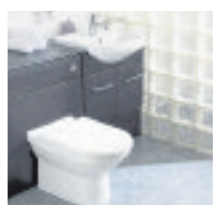
GENUINE PRICE REDUCTIONS



BATHROOMS Montrose Gloss Suite £1949

(supply only) Based on 6 bathroom unit example

500 3 drawer base unit, 600 wash basin unit, 500 double door base, 400 single door base, WC unit, toilet roll unit. Plus plinths, worktop and cistern



FREE With every £750 bathroom purchase

Designer Semi Recess Basin
Designer Back to Wall Pan
(valued at £320 RRP)



KITCHENS Eco Range, High Gloss Finish £1499

Based on 8 kitchen unit example

*4 base units, 1 oven housing, 1 larder unit, 2 wall units plus plinths, work surfaces and handles.

Supply Only

FREE With every £750 kitchen purchase

Astracast 1 1/2 Bowl Stainless Steel Sink Chrome or Brushed Steel
Designer Sink Tap (valued at £305 RRP)



TAKE AWAY TODAY

CHOICE OF QUALITY MODERN SUITES

Pan, cistern, pedestal,
500 basin & soft close
seat.



SALE PRICE
£129

TAKE AWAY TODAY

1050 COMBI UNIT

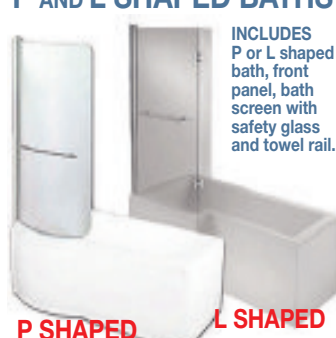


~~WAS £399~~
SALE PRICE **£229**

INCLUDES: Furniture, semi recess basin, concealed cistern, back to wall pan & deluxe soft close seat.

TAKE AWAY TODAY

P AND L SHAPED BATHS



INCLUDES
P or L shaped
bath, front
panel, bath
screen with
safety glass
and towel rail.

P SHAPED
SALE PRICE
£329

L SHAPED
SALE PRICE
£369

25YR GUARANTEE



MIRA CODA
THERMOSTATIC
VALVE
Rail, hose
and head
SALE PRICE
£129

TRITON T80Z

7.5kw, 8.5w
9.9kw and
10.5kw
SALE PRICE
£129

TAKE AWAY TODAY

QUADRANT ENCLOSURES SILVER STERLING



**ONLY
£199**
800/900
or 1000mm
includes base & waste
**25YR
GUARANTEE**

TAKE AWAY TODAY

TUBULAR RADIATORS



Straight Chrome
600 x 800 **£69**
600 x 1100 **£79**
Curved Chrome
600 x 800 **£79**
600 x 1100 **£89**

TAKE AWAY TODAY



VANITY UNITS AT SALE PRICES

Soft close doors
complete with
vitreous basin.

400 **£79**
450 **£89**
550 **£109**
650 **£119**
750 **£169**
850 **£199**

TAKE AWAY TODAY

'TOP QUALITY'

CHROME TAP SET SALE PRICE **£99**

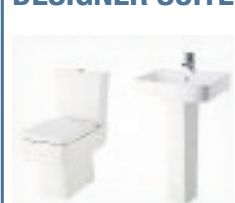


LIMITED STOCK

MONO TAP **£45**
Chrome on solid brass with
ceramic disc technology
while stocks last

DESIGNER SUITE

TAKE AWAY TODAY



Basin, pedestal,
pan and cistern
with soft
close seat

£169

BRADLEY STREET PENSNETT DY5 4RJ Tel: 01384 263626

OPEN 7 DAYS 9AM-6PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY LATE 'TIL 8' FRIDAY, 11AM - 4PM SUNDAY - AMPLE FREE PARKING
Trust the experts.... 'PRICE PROMISE!' WE PROMISE TO BEAT ANY QUOTE INCLUDING ONLINE Trade Enquiries Welcome

Gatehouse gig for Blair Dunlop

BLAIR Dunlop is coming to the Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford on January 12. The young Horizon award-winning guitarist has been making a big impression on the folk scene.

Dunlop is supported by rising star Kelly Oliver who had a fantastically busy time last year with the launch of her first album. The show starts 8pm. Tickets are £12.50.

The Woodman Folk Club which meets at The Marina, Kingswinford plays host to Dublin entertainer Tommy Dempsey on January 16. Bill Caddick is back on the circuit and at the Black Country club, after a six year gap, on January 23. Both shows start 8.30pm and tickets for both are £6 for members and add £1 for non-members.

Ruby tour days for punk veterans

PUNK rock veterans The Stranglers celebrate 40 years on the music scene with their Ruby anniversary spring tour including a gig at Birmingham's O2 Academy on March 14.

Still featuring original members Jean-Jacques Burnel, Jet Black and Dave Greenfield, plus Baz Warne who has been with the band for nearly 15 years, the March On tour will include special guests The Rezillos.

The Stranglers, originally fronted by Hugh Cornwell, had hits including Peaches, No More Heroes, 5 Minutes, Golden Brown, Strange Little Girl, Skin Deep and Duchess.

Go East for a touching comedy about family divided by culture

Head out on the highway

JULIAN Cope is described by his publishers Bloomsbury as a 'visionary rock musician and musicologist, hip archaeologist and one-time front man of the Teardrop Explodes'.

He is in concert at Birmingham Glee Club on Sunday, January 25.

Cope has released over 20 solo albums, six acclaimed books, including his autobiography Head-On and guide to the German underground rock scene Krautrock sampler. His recent first work of fiction, One Three One, has been dubbed a 'hooligan road novel'.

Tamworth-raised Cope enjoyed chart hits with The Teardrop Explodes in the 1980s, had a huge solo hit with World Shut Your Mouth and made a string of acclaimed albums. This year he releases a new 'Best Of' compilation covering 1999-2014, entitled Trip Advisor.



Rocker, poet, pagan, hip historian and novelist Julian Cope

THE critically-acclaimed revival of culture clash comedy East Is East is coming to Birmingham fresh from a run in London's West End.

Starring Absolutely Fabulous and Trolled star Jane Horrocks as the mother in an Anglo Pakistani family in 1970s Salford, Ayub Khan Din's poignant comedy-drama was previously best known for the 1999 film version, made three years after the play's stage debut.

The production marks the return to the stage for TV and film star Horrocks, who plays Ella Khan. She is fondly remembered for her role as Edina Monsoon's barny personal assistant Bubble in 'Ab Fab' and her movie performance alongside Michael Caine and Brenda Blethyn as the shy but remarkably talented LV in Little Voice.

The play also features the playwright/actor himself with Khan Din as Pakistani chip shop owner George Khan, who is determined to give his children a strict Muslim upbringing. The resulting household tension reaches breaking point as the long-suffering Ella gets caught in the crossfire between her husband and children.

Chilling

East Is East is staged at the city's New Alexandra Theatre for a five-day run from Tuesday to the following Saturday.

There are other panto alternatives in the region with chilling tale of terror The Frozen Scream at The Patrick Centre in Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday, January 17. Actor/writer Christopher Green and novelist Sarah Walters, who wrote Fingersmith and Tipping The Velvet, have bravely taken on the task of turning a supposedly cursed novel by 1920s writer CC Gilbert into a play.

Drawing upon Norse myths about dangerous supernatural powers lurking in the snow, this immersive production puts the audience alongside the cast — including Rula Lenska — at a decadent 1920s house party during a blizzard where matters take a macabre turn.

The ticket price includes a cocktail for



A scene from the hit revival of East Is East

sexually frank and darkly comic monologue Fleabag at Birmingham Rep's The Door venue from January 14 to 21. Written by Phoebe Waller-Bridge and performed by Maddie Rice, it's not for the easily shocked.

There is still time to catch the pantos before the festive season becomes a distant memory. Julian Clary unleashes his withering wit as Dandini in Cinderella at Wolverhampton Grand until January 18. Matt Slack, Gary Wilmot and Paul Zerdin form their own crazy gang in Birmingham Hippodrome's spectacular Jack and the Beanstalk until February 1. Roald Dahl fans can have a whizz-banging time at Birmingham Rep with The BFG until January 24.

Bang Bang they're coming here soon

THE pop scene in the West Midlands this year will start with a Bang Bang when Jessie J performs at a sold-out Birmingham O2 Academy on January 27.

She plays the city as part of her six-date January UK tour after storming back into the charts with her hit Bang Bang with Ariana Grande and Nicki Minaj.

In October the release of her third studio album Sweet Album secured Jessie her third UK top five album and another MOBO Award for 'Best Female'.

Grande and Minaj also have gigs coming up in Birmingham, rapper Minaj is at the Barclaycard Arena on April 3 and Grande brings her Honeymoon tour to the same venue on June 9.

Woosey time for the Robin2

MATT Woosey will be bringing his blend of acoustic and blues music to the Robin2, Bilston on January 14. Woosey is touring on the back of his latest album Wildest Dreams. Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door. Woosey will be supported by Rebecca Downes.

Highly respected musician Phil Beer, also of Show of Hands fame, comes to the Red Lion Folk Club, King's Heath on January 14. Beer will be bringing the sounds of his new album Plays Guitar and Fiddle, Sings A Bit. The show starts at 7.45pm with the doors opening 7.15pm and tickets cost £13.

BRETTELL LANE STOVES & FLUES

70 STOVES AND FIREPLACES
9 LIVE DEMONSTRATION MODELS



Just
1 mile from
Merry Hill

- All leading manufacturers
- Call in for a FREE Quotation
- Full Installation Service
- All work carried out by our own installers

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

Open Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm

Unit H, Emms Court (right at the end),

Meeting Lane Ind. Estate, off Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill DY5 3LB

TEL: 01384 263290

or see our new website

www.westmidlandsstoves.com

MOBILITY SALE NOW ON

SALE
EXTENDED FOR ONE
MORE WEEK!!!



OPEN:
MON - SAT 09.00 - 17.00
SUN 10.00 - 16.00

CareCo, Pedmore road
Brierley Hill
West Midlands, DY5 1TJ
01384 489 119

Wishing Customers Old and New a Very Happy New Year

MOBILITY SCOOTERS



- ✓ Over 1000 scooters in stock
- ✓ Travel, Pavement & 8mph available
- ✓ Aircraft friendly products
- ✓ 3 months FREE insurance

PRICES FROM

£369

SUMMER OFFERS

WHEELCHAIRS



- ✓ Self propelled, transit & travel available
- ✓ Great range of wheelchair accessories
- ✓ The UK's lightest wheelchairs in stock

PRICES FROM

£90

HUGE SAVINGS

POWERCHAIRS



- ✓ Great range available
- ✓ Attendant friendly products
- ✓ Try before you buy
- ✓ 3 months FREE insurance

PRICES FROM

£799

SAVE UP TO 70%

BATHROOM AIDS



- ✓ In Store bathroom
- ✓ Great range of Bathlifts
- ✓ Fantastic range of accessories
- ✓ Incontinence pads available

PRICES FROM

£349

SAVE UP TO 75%

RISE RECLINERS



- ✓ Great range of sizes and fabrics
- ✓ UK made chairs
- ✓ Made to measure service available
- ✓ All of the best brands stocked

PRICES FROM

£349

SAVE UP TO £1000

STAIRLIFTS



- ✓ Straight & Curved available
- ✓ Local service & support
- ✓ Next day installation available
- ✓ In Store Stairlift

UK'S LOWEST PRICES

FREE QUOTATION



£10 OFF
ORDERS OVER £250 IN STORE
This voucher is only valid for showroom purchases.

£10

CareCo
the discount mobility experts

10PNDOFF

CHOICE



Rita Ora

The Voice UK (BBC1, 7pm)
New series. The return of the music contest in which the emphasis is on vocals rather than looks. With the departure of pop princess Kylie Minogue from the judging panel, R'n'B singer Rita Ora joins veteran star Tom Jones, producer, writer and rapper Will.i.am and Kaiser Chiefs frontman Ricky Wilson. As always, the contest kicks off with the blind auditions, in which the coaches begin the process of building their 12-strong teams by sitting with their backs to the auditionees and spinning their chair if they want that singer. Presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are on hand to console and congratulate the hopefuls, who include a Scottish fireman, a soap star's daughter and one of the nation's best-loved children's characters.

8.30 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants answer questions to try to win each other's dream prizes. Including the lottery draws, with Kate Garraway.

9.20 Casualty. Connie is torn between spending time with Grace and dealing with a demanding patient. Zoe treats an old man who makes her realise life is too short.

10.10 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Everton v Manchester City at Goodison Park and Chelsea v Newcastle United at Stamford Bridge. National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. 1.20 Film: Kevin and Perry Go Large. (2000) 2.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Live Athletics: Great Edinburgh Cross Country. Coverage from Holyrood Park. 2.35 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The opening men's semi-final. 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.10 BBC News
Now You See It. New series. The best and worst of the magic world, featuring incredible performances from across the globe as well as tricks going wrong. Narrated by Mel Giedroyc.

7.00 The Voice UK. New series. The return of the music contest in which the emphasis is on vocals rather than looks. With the departure of pop princess Kylie Minogue from the judging panel, R'n'B singer Rita Ora joins veteran star Tom Jones, producer, writer and rapper Will.i.am and Kaiser Chiefs frontman Ricky Wilson. As always, the contest kicks off with the blind auditions, in which the coaches begin the process of building their 12-strong teams by sitting with their backs to the auditionees and spinning their chair if they want that singer. Presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are on hand to console and congratulate the hopefuls, who include a Scottish fireman, a soap star's daughter and one of the nation's best-loved children's characters.

8.30 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants answer questions to try to win each other's dream prizes. Including the lottery draws, with Kate Garraway.

9.20 Casualty. Connie is torn between spending time with Grace and dealing with a demanding patient. Zoe treats an old man who makes her realise life is too short.

10.10 BBC News: Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Everton v Manchester City at Goodison Park and Chelsea v Newcastle United at Stamford Bridge. National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. 1.20 Film: Kevin and Perry Go Large. (2000) 2.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Apache Territory. (1958) 7.10 Film: Private's Progress. (1956) 8.45 Film: The Maggie. (1954) 10.15 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) 10.45 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) 11.15 British Isles: A Natural History. (R) 12.05 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 12.50 Michael Caine: Talking Pictures. 1.45 Film: The Ipcress File. (1965) Spy thriller, starring Michael Caine. 3.30 Escape to the Continent. (R) 4.30 Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The ladies' final.

6.00 Flog It! Trade Secrets. The experts offer advice on buying and selling military memorabilia and presenter Paul Martin explores the issues surrounding collecting antique firearms. (R)

6.30 Sacred Wonders of Britain. Neil Oliver travels to Iona in the Inner Hebrides to learn about St. Columba's tough brand of monasticism, and finds out how the epic journey of St. Cuthbert led to the writing of the Lindisfarne Gospels and the building of Durham Cathedral. At Canterbury Cathedral, Neil discovers how the gruesome murder of Thomas Becket spurred the building of its nave, and on to Glastonbury Tor in Somerset, he investigates the story of the Holy Grail, the sacred cup of everlasting life. Last in the series. (R)

7.30 The Last Days of Anne Boleyn. Hilary Mantel, Philippa Gregory and David Starkey sift through the evidence to try to determine why Henry VIII's second wife was executed in 1536. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring and his platoon are ordered to clear the area for a major army exercise – but encounter a problem in the shape of a steam engine blocking the path. (R)

9.00 Britain's Tudor Treasure: A Night at Hampton Court. Historians Lucy Worsley and David Starkey present a re-creation of the christening service of Henry VIII's son Edward on October 15, 1537.

10.00 Film: The Other Boleyn Girl. (2008) A bitter rivalry develops between two sisters as they compete for the affection of King Henry VIII. Historical drama, starring Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson and Eric Bana.

11.50 Darts: BDO World Championships. 12.40 Film: Lady Caroline Lamb. (1972)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Animals. (R) 7.10 Sooty. (R) 7.25 Signed Stories: Share a Story. 7.30 Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled! Nerts & Monsters. (R) 7.50 Scrambled! Adventure Time. 8.30 Scrambled! Horrid Henry. (R) 8.50 Scrambled! Hunk and the Agents of Smash. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.15 ITV News. Weather. 11.25 Ejector Seat. (R) 12.25 Britain's Best Back Gardens. (R) 1.25 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 2.25 Tipping Point. (R) 3.25 Diversity Live. (R) 4.25 Regional Programme: Weather. 4.35 ITV News: Weather. 4.55 Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep.

7.00 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. New series. The larger-than-life comic steps into the shoes of former hosts Leslie Crowther, Matthew Kelly and Cat Deeley to front this latest reincarnation of the show in which five members of the public are transformed into their singing heroes to perform an iconic hit to an appreciative studio audience. The winner of each round goes forward to the final, with the chance to pick up the series' coveted award.

8.05 Take Me Out. Chocolate factory worker Peter, city slicker Liam, oil rig engineer Colin and gymnast Chris vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on capturing their interest and securing a date – but first they must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Host Paddy McGuinness monitors their progress and also reviews the dating action from last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandos.

9.20 Film: Skyfall. (2012) James Bond pursues a mysterious criminal mastermind who has orchestrated a terrorist attack on MI6 headquarters and exposed the identities of undercover agents around the world. The trail leads to a rogue former operative who has a personal vendetta against the intelligence organisation's leader. Action thriller, starring Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem, Judi Dench and Ralph Fiennes.

11.05 ITV News: Weather.

11.20 Film: Skyfall. (2012) Concluded.

12.20 Off Their Rockers. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.35 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.00 Cycling: Revolution Series. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 The King of Queens. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 Frasier. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 Speed with Guy Martin. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Warwick and Kempton Park. 4.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 5.30 The Simpsons. (R)

6.00 The Simpsons. In another trio of horror tales, Lisa discovers Bart's demented twin in the attic and creates an alternative world in a margarine tub – before becoming its god. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke meets Russell Edwards and Nadia Smith, who are trying to build a family home out of a derelict 18th-century farmhouse in the Shropshire countryside. (R)

8.00 Tsunami: 10 Years On. Documentary studying the aftermath of the Boxing Day 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, a decade after it took place. Featuring archive footage and interviews with experts and eyewitnesses. First shown on More4.

9.00 Film: Bad Teacher. (2011) Cynical, hard-drinking teacher Elizabeth Halsey hates her job and the kids in her class, and hopes to escape her daily grind by landing a rich husband. A wealthy substitute seems like a suitable candidate, but she has a rival for his attention in a squeaky-clean colleague. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake, Jason Segel and Lucy Punch.

10.50 Sarah Milligan: Chatterbox Live. Stand-up show recorded at London's Bloomsbury Theatre in 2011, in which the comedienne shares humorous insights into her life, including the perils of living alone. (R)

11.50 Film: Cocktail. (1988) An ambitious bartender with dreams of running his own establishment is torn between the waitress he loves and a wealthy older woman. Drama, starring Tom Cruise and Bryan Brown.

1.50 Queer as Pop: From the Gay Scene to the Mainstream. (R) 2.45 Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.25 Access. 10.30 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 11.25 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 12.20 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.20 Film: Columbo: The Murder of a Rock Star. (1991) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Little Richard. 3.15 Film: Columbo: Grand Deceptions. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. 5.15 Deadliest Storms. (R)

6.10 Scariest Weather. The most violent and dangerous weather ever caught on camera, including tornadoes and dust storms in America, wildfires in Russia and the tsunami that hit Japan in March 2011. Part of Storm Night. (R)

7.00 Worst Weather Ever? Documentary examining the current state of extreme weather, looking at the effect of the increase in the Earth's temperature and exploring what will happen if it continues to rise. Part of Storm Night. (R)

7.55 Secrets of the Egyptian Pyramids. Dallas Campbell presents a programme in which a team of investigators attempt to unlock the secrets of some of the world's greatest engineering achievements. In the first episode, scientists and historians led by Steve Burrows, the engineer responsible for the Bird's Nest Olympic stadium in Beijing, travel to Egypt to use 3D laser scanners to digitally recreate virtual replicas of four different ancient pyramids. Through these, they tell the story of how builders 5,000 years ago refined the structure by learning from their mistakes and look at why the pharaohs came to be buried in them. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous residents' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to their housemates' quirks and foibles while also coping with the day-to-day complications of life inside the house.

10.00 Film: Mr & Mrs Smith. (2005) Married assassins are hired to kill each other – a situation that restores some much-needed excitement to their relationship. Comedy adventure, with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

12.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You 8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Film: Avengers Assemble (2012) 11.15 Family Guy 1.30 Crims 2.00 People Just Do Nothing 4.00 Close

BBC Four
7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano 8.00 Everyday Miracles: The Genius of Sofas, Stockings and Scanners 9.00 Spiral 10.50 Rock 'n' Roll Britannia 11.50 Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll 1.55 Top of the Pops: 1980 2.25 Lost Land of the Volcano 3.25 Sounds of the Sixties 3.55 Close

ITV2
12.05 The Cube 1.10 Film: Richie Rich (1994) 3.05 You've Been Framed! 4.05 You've Been Framed: The Next Generation! 5.05 You've Been Framed! 5.35 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) 7.20 Film: Evan Almighty (2007) 9.20 Take Me Out – The Gossip 10.05 Blue Go Mad in Ibiza 11.05 Film: Ocean's Eleven (2001) 1.30 Mom 1.50 Fake Reaction 2.25 Life's Funniest Moments 2.50 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.30 Lewis 1.35 Inspector Morse 3.50 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.55 Rosemary & Thyme 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Midsomer Murders 10.00 Lewis 12.00 Inspector Morse 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4
11.55 Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) 1.40 Jokaj 4.35 Storage Wars 5.00 Storage Wars: Texas 6.00 Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Buenos Aires ePrix. 8.30 Storage Wars 9.00 Film: The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) 11.20 Film: Troy (2004) 2.25 Highway Patrol 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 4.30 Teleshopping

E4
11.30 Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. 12.30 Rude (ish) Tube 1.30 Troy 2.00 The Big Bang Theory 4.00 How I Met Your Mother 5.00 Rude (ish) Tube 10.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 The 100 9.00 Film: Beverly Hills Cop (1984) 11.05 The Big Bang Theory 12.00 The Inbetweeners 1.00 How I Met Your Mother 2.00 The Ricky Gervais Show 3.25 Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23 4.10 Charmed

Film4
11.00 Cat Ballou (1965) 1.00 Taxi (2004) 2.55 Battle of the Sexes (1959) 4.40 (In)visible (1995) 6.35 Beaches (1988) 9.00 Ghost (1990) 11.30 The Bay (2012) 1.15 Scanners (1981) 3.30 Close

HIGH SPEC

Windows & Conservatories

CELEBRATING OUR 23RD BIRTHDAY
Over 50,000 sq ft factory/factory visits arranged

£1 MILLION GIVEAWAY

UP TO 50% OFF

A rated frames and glass
FREE triple glazing 40 mm for price of double
Lifetime guarantee on double glazed units









Ring Now 0121 552 9777
FreePhone 0800 007 5312

Open 7 days a week Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm Sat & Sun 10am - 4pm
FACTORY & SHOWROOM - ROOD END ROAD, OLDBURY, B68 8SF
www.hispecwindows.co.uk hispec-sales@outlook.com

*Terms & Conditions Apply

MONDAY
Nora Roberts' High Noon, Channel 5, 3.15pm
When a hostage negotiator is attacked in a police station, suspicion falls on an officer whose incompetence she had exposed. However, when the campaign of intimidation continues, she discovers she is being targeted by a deranged criminal who holds her responsible for a tragedy in his past. Crime thriller, with Emilie de Ravin and Patrick Sabongui. (2009)

TUESDAY
Primeval, BBC1, 12.05am
Two American reporters and a cameraman travel to Africa in search of a near-mythical giant crocodile that has savaged hundreds to death. However, they not only have a battle surviving encounters with the man-eating predator, but also end up in the throes of a long-standing civil war involving a local warlord who does not take kindly to intruders on his territory. Thriller, starring Dominic Purcell and Orlando Jones. (2007)



Couples Retreat, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
Keeping Up with the Steins, BBC1, 11.35pm
The Fiedler and Stein families embark on a game of one-upmanship as they try to outdo each other in their lavish preparations for their 13-year-old sons' forthcoming bar mitzvah parties. Meanwhile, one of the boys uses the occasion to plan a surprise reunion between his dad and estranged grandfather. Comedy drama, starring Daryl Sabara. (2006)

FRIDAY
Couples Retreat, ITV, 10.40pm
A couple on the brink of divorce sign up for relationship therapy on a tropical island, but find they can save money if they persuade their friends to join them. Three more couples go along for the holiday, thinking they do not need any help – but the unconventional treatment soon exposes cracks in their relationships. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn and Jason Bateman. (2009)

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan, Channel 4, 12.30am
A Kazakhstani journalist is sent to the United States to learn about the country and its customs. However, when the inquisitive reporter stumbles across an episode of Baywatch featuring Pamela Anderson, he becomes convinced she is his future bride and embarks on a reckless mission to track her down. Spoof documentary, starring Sacha Baron Cohen. (2006)

Looking to make their dreams come true

George Clarke likes to keep himself busy – so much so that he's often juggling various TV projects as well as running his own architectural firm.

Last March, he told us he was "making series three of Amazing Spaces. I'm making series four of Amazing Spaces at the same time. I'm making series five of Restoration Man, alongside series six of Restoration Man."

Blimey! Well, at least his fans know that if they miss one instalment, they won't have long to wait until the next.

Amazing Spaces ended its run just before Christmas, and now it's the turn of the aforementioned series five of Restoration Man to take centre stage. And, despite the nation's continuing economic issues, it seems that people are still more than willing to invest their hard-earned savings in bricks and mortar – even if sometimes there isn't much of either when they take on a building.

"I think they're amazing," says George of those who take part in the

programme. "These are people who are generally jumping into the unknown, taking on grade one or grade two listed buildings, many that have been abandoned for years.

"They do use a phrase sometimes that does make me laugh but is true, and they say, 'If I wasn't so naive, I wouldn't have taken on the project in the first place.' But the upside is that they're not paying a king's ransom for these buildings."

He has a sound piece of advice for all involved, although some don't give it much heed: "Get the professionals around you that can really help you and advise you in the areas you're lacking. As you know from watching the programmes, people do make some really major mistakes where they think they can design it themselves, but they can't and they get it wrong.

"Get a project manager involved if you've never done it before. A project manager is somebody who's seen as an investment, not a cost. They will save you money over the course of the build."

The second episode of the current

run sees George travel to Great Braxted in Essex, where Jim and Bee Goody want to turn a derelict Victorian school into their dream home in the country.

Sadly, they haven't been able to sell their existing house to help them fund the project, so have taken on a bridging loan, but on the upside, George is thrilled to hear that some of the original features they initially felt would hamper their creation of the perfect abode have now become some of their favourite aspects.

"I'm passionate about architecture and all over the country there are beautiful buildings with real soul that need to be saved," explains George. "I'm not interested in creating living museums. The challenge is to give these historic buildings a modern twist and drag them into the 21st century.

"What I loved about this was that these people have such a passion for Britain's architectural history. They just wanted to save the buildings for future generations.

"I love that, I find it really quite humbling."



George Clarke (left) in The Restoration Man, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Broadchurch
ITV, 9pm

In 2013, after the first airing of multi-award-winning drama Broadchurch, viewers cancelled all Monday evening plans for the foreseeable, after David Tennant and Olivia Colman and co gave out such sterling performances, we simply couldn't think of anything else. Conversations, whether around the water cooler at work, or down the pub of a weekend, started and ended with 'who do we think really killed Danny Latimer?' It's safe to say, we were a nation addicted – to a television programme! But such is the calibre of writer Chris Chibnell's work. However, as we'd have expected, the focus of this second series has been shrouded in secrecy, and Chibnell explained: 'I knew, from the start, that there was another story to tell in the world of Broadchurch; so much so that I'd pitched it to Peter Fincham, Director of Television at ITV, in our very first meeting when he greenlit the first series of the show.' Tonight, the drama continues, as DI Alec Hardy and DS Ellie Miller continue their investigative work, the previous case never far from their minds.

TUESDAY
Suspects
Channel 5, 10pm
New series. The return of the crime drama following

the work of three detectives, in which the actors devise their own dialogue based on a detailed plot description. DI Martha Bellamy welcomes back DS Jack Weston after a period of enforced leave following the paedophile investigation, warning him this is his final chance. Jack and DC Charlie Steele investigate when a popular art teacher is found with life-threatening head injuries at a sixth-form college, with suspicions falling on handyman Ben Peel and head Rory O'Hanlon.

WEDNESDAY
Angry, White and Proud
Channel 4, 10pm
There's some hard-hitting stuff in this documentary, which explores how far-right splinter groups are on the rise. It's an eye-opener for director Jamie Roberts, who in his first full-length documentary, gets to know members of the far right – those who call themselves 'patriots', but some of whom admit to being racist and hating Muslims. Jamie and his camera

follow all aspects of their lives, from violent street protests and police arrests, to the ups and downs of their domestic lives. Colin is a former nightclub DJ, but these days, puts all his efforts into his group The South London Infidels, and has such strong negative views on Islam that in the past, it's cost him his job. We also meet Paul, a former key figure in the English Defence League who now heads up the South East Alliance, and a man who joined the far-right cause following the tragic death of his son.

THURSDAY
Cyberbully
Channel 4, 9pm
It's been claimed that 69 per cent of young people in the UK have experienced some form of cyber bullying. Some cynics, especially those who are old enough to remember a time before social

media, may think that the answer is to log off the internet, but as this one-off drama shows us, it's not always that easy. Cyberbully stars Game of Thrones actress Maisie Williams as Casey Jacobs, a teenage girl who like many others her age is in constant digital communication with her friends, whether it's by text, social media or video chats. However, she's about to be faced with the darker side of effectively living her life online when she's targeted by an anonymous hacker. Her ordeal plays out in real time, and while what happens may seem extreme, it's certainly not beyond the realms of possibility or moving into Black Mirror's 'what if?' territory – worryingly, the events depicted have been inspired by real-life cases.

FRIDAY
Race to the Pole
Channel 5, 7pm
Richard Parks takes part in a gruelling, mega-distance running event called the Jungle Ultra. In intense heat over five days, he has to cover a total of 230km across the brutal and unforgiving terrain of the Peruvian Amazon, with the course taking him from the cooler cloud forest down into the Amazon basin and through the jungle itself in Manu National Park. In addition, Richard has to carry all his own provisions with him, including food and safety and camping gear.



Suspects, Tuesday, Channel 5, 10pm

CHRONICLE

CREATE YOUR UNIQUE PERSONALISED GIFT.

IF YOU APPEARED IN THIS WEEK'S CHRONICLE

WHY NOT ORDER THE PICTURE AS A PHOTO, CANVAS PRINT, MUG, GLASS COASTER OR MOUSEMAT?

GO TO PHOTOSFORSALE.EXPRESSANDSTAR.COM

OR CALL (01902) 319444 (MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9AM TO 5PM)

Please note: Only selected prints available and copyright restrictions apply. Photos available to view and order online the next working day after publication. Allow 28 days for delivery.

Part of Express & Star Ltd

MNA Media

M & H FIREPLACES

RETAILER OF THE YEAR

RE-OPENS 3/01/15 MANY X-DISPLAY BARGAINS IN STORE

Log Burners Now In Stock

OPEN 5 DAYS. CLOSED WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY

Visit our showroom at: Forge Lane, Cradley Heath, Halesowen, B64 5AL (Opposite Cradley Bus and Train Station) Telephone: 01384 345400

ANDY ORMEROD

Heating, Plumbing

Gas Safe 87022 ACS approved

• Servicing of Gas Appliances • Landlords Gas Certificates issued including installations • General Plumbing work undertaken

A Member of the Approved Traders, Fix-A-Home Scheme

Tel: 01384 240337

Mobile: 07974 549460

5 DAY COACH BREAK TO SCOTLAND - £164

THURSDAY 19TH MARCH

Loch Long Hotel

Loch Lomond National Park

STB ★★ ★

SPRING CEILIDH

This 5 day coach break staying at our Loch Long Hotel includes a "Ceilidh Night" (Kay-lee), when you will enjoy typical Scottish entertainment with foot tapping music provided by accordionists, pipers and highland dancers. There will also be an excursion everyday including a cruise on Loch Lomond, Inveraray, Glencoe, Rannoch Moor, Fort William & Edinburgh.

TOUR INCLUDES:

• 4 Nights Half Board • Nightly entertainment • Excursions

PICKUP FROM:

Birmingham, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall

LOCHS & GLENS HOLIDAYS

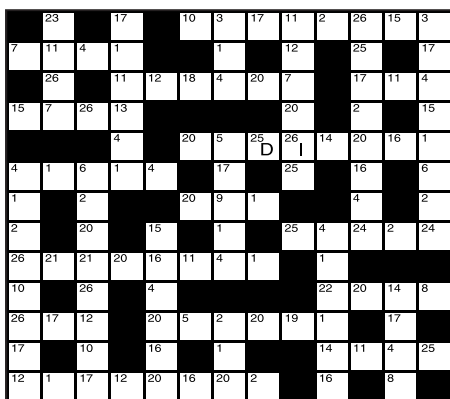
Holidays are fully bonded. School Road, Gartocharn, G83 8RW

www.LOCHS.COM

01389 713713

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

L	M	E	F	O	V	A	D	K	H	W	X	P
Y	B	C	T	S	Z	J	Q	R	U	N	G	I

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

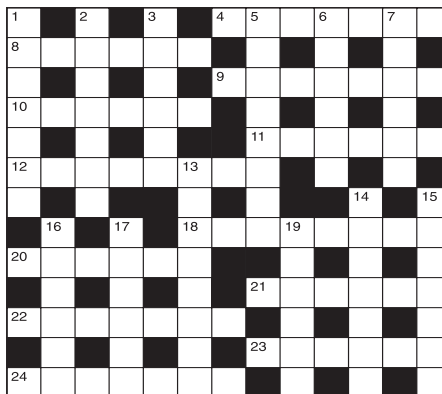
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Believes the bank balances (7)
- 8 & 9ac. The nervous exuberance of beastly apparitions! (6,7)
- See 8 Across
- They're taken by priest and private (6)
- Did some pillaging - dismissed (6)
- Photograph one quick on the draw (8)
- Try out under-ground scientific equipment (4-4)
- Selected group of pupils upsets the master (6)
- Has wet dressing changed (6)
- Tunic for a knight, we hear (7)
- Ready to put in a word for the actor (6)
- Provide new cover as compensation (7)

Down

- Revel and merry-go-round almost finished (7)
- A thousand ladies upset by faulty distribution (7)
- The children and I in the farm buildings (6)
- It becomes involved with posers and provides smart answers (8)
- To do a job on the board is straightforward (6)
- A torn piece of material for the lace-worker (6)
- You'll find them also upset by cooked food (3,5)
- Where one may declare routine practices (7)
- Dislikes being told to go in the reserves (7)
- Accurately use a pitch-fork! (6)
- Sportsman who may well be foiled (6)
- In the direction of information sign at the hospital? (6)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Hamlet (7)
- Cordial (6)
- Odd (7)
- Bad (6)
- Wave (6)
- Effort (8)
- Disaster (8)
- Diversion (6)
- Jail (6)
- Exhibit (7)
- Self-possession (6)
- Distended (7)

Down

- Curtail (7)
- Case of cutlery (7)
- Road (6)
- Inside (8)
- Apt (6)
- Silenced (6)
- Grow (8)
- Errand (7)
- Before long (2,3,2)
- Critique (6)
- Force (6)
- Sudden (6)

Sudoku

				9		8	6	
	7		1	4				
2	3			7	4	1		
	1			2				
		4		6		5		1
		2	8				3	
9	8	7					5	3
			9		5		8	
5	6	1		3				

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	6	9	3	5	8	4	7	2
3	2	8	3	7	4	1	6	5
7	4	6	2	1	9	8	5	3
8	7	3	4	1	2	6	5	9
2	9	6	7	3	5	8	4	1
4	5	1	8	6	9	2	3	7
9	3	4	1	8	7	5	2	6
5	8	7	2	9	6	3	1	4
6	1	2	5	4	3	7	9	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Countenance; 9 Ten; 10 Automatic; 11 Aides; 13 Trestle; 14 Gas-bag; 16 Assign; 18 Tripper; 19 Scene; 20 Absorbing; 21 Fit; 22 Clandestine. Down: 2 Own; 3 Nears; 4 Estate; 5 Aimless; 6 Cut it fine; 7 Straightway; 8 Screen tests; 12 Dismissal; 15 Aspirin; 17 Praise; 19 Sight; 21 Fan. QUICK - Across: 1 Injudicious; 9 Nip; 10 Fascinate; 11 Erect; 13 Diarist; 14 Tweeds; 16 Devout; 18 Liaison; 19 Onset; 20 Tailoring; 21 Too; 22 Influential. Down: 2 Nap; 3 Unfit; 4 Inside; 5 Imitate; 6 Unanimous; 7 Inertly; 8 Restitution; 12 Elevation; 15 Despol; 17 Entire; 19 Ought; 21 Tea.

Quiz

- Who presents TV's Question Time?
- By what name is a kangaroo's young commonly known?
- What is the largest city in Switzerland?
- Who wrote the novel Cat's Cradle in 1963?
- Which pop star married film director Guy Ritchie in 2000?
- Which fish's young include alevis and smolts?
- By which first name is former decathlete Francis Morgan Thompson better known?
- Of which building does the White Tower of c.1079 form a part?
- Whose first novel was A Parliamentary Affair?
- Which record company was founded in Detroit by Berry Gordy Jnr?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Gerrymandering; 2 Bing Crosby; 3 India; 4 Beetle; 5 Margarine; 6 Pacific; 7 Arthur C. Clarke; 8 Nutmeg; 9 Fred Astaire; 10 Juggernaut.

Niner: WORKMATES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

925 gives a female animal,
1344 gives a male animal,
157658 gives a rodent.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Capital Appliances **SALE NOW ON** **SAME DAY LOCAL DELIVERY** **VAST STOCKS**

SALE NOW ON LOTS OF BARGAINS

Wash Dryer 1600 Spin 8 Kilo Fast Wash **£399**

900 wide Dual Fuel Twin Oven **£249**

American Style Fridge **£249**

60cm Ceramic Double Oven **£279**

Built-in Ceramic Hobs **£149**

Condenser Tumble Dryer Ex Display **£189**

Gas Hobs **£119**

Castle Street Dudley DY1 1LA 01384 234620 Open Mon-Sat 9.00 - 5.00
Kingswinford Centre DY6 9JL 01384 271812 Open Mon-Sat 9.00 - 5.00
Macrome Road Claregate WV6 9HD 01902 752764
Salop Street Wolverhampton Centre WV3 0RX 01902 429060
www.capitalappliances.co.uk

Explore your world with
star★extra TRAVEL

See us online at:
www.expressandstar.com/starextratravel

UK trips, Europe by coach, air and Eurostar, plus holidays further afield.

Brought to you by the
Express & Star

DOUBLE TIME DOWN TO...
T.W. BYDER LTD **Now Open Wednesdays**
ARMY & NAVY STORE
Genuine Ex-Army clothing and footwear

Also stockist of children's camouflage clothing + safety footwear. Ex army boots + RAF shoes.
 Ex-army webbing, clothing + work wear, overalls + waterproofs, camping equipment + leisure wear. Tents, Sleeping Bags & Gas Cookers now in stock. Specialist suppliers for all Duke of Edinburgh & Cadet equipment.

Open 6 days • Closed Sunday

Telephones: 0121 472 1402
 325-327 Harborne Lane, Birmingham, B17 9NT
www.twbydersinbirmingham.co.uk

STOUR VALLEY CAT RESCUE

TABLETOP SALE

at
Hagley Community Centre

Saturday 10th January

10.30am - 12.00pm

★ **ADMISSION FREE** ★

LOTS OF INTERESTING STALLS

Other charities are represented

Please come along and support us

For further information

Call Anita on:

01384 375832



REGISTERED CHARITY
 No. 514904



Kitchen-conservatory is a highlight of this house



AN improved and spacious four-bedroomed individual property, Lower Patin, The Lea, Kidderminster, is for sale through Allan Morris Estate Agents at £375,000.

Set back behind a wide driveway with parking for up to four cars, it has gas central heating and double glazing, a reception hall, a kitchen/conservatory extending to over 26ft, 15ft square conservatory, spacious rear lounge, four bedrooms plus a study/fifth bedroom, with the master having fitted furniture and en suite, bathroom, garden with decking area and a garage. Contact 01562 747755 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk



Improved three-bedroom home near historic park



THIS tastefully improved three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Manor Lane, Halesowen, has lovely views over The Leasowes historic parkland.

It is for sale through Scriven & Co on £249,950 with no chain. It has a porch, reception hall with staircase off, dining room with a bay window, laminate flooring and a bay window, living room with a multi-panelled glazed door opening out to the garden, a kitchen with cooker recess and a cooker hood, a sun room with vinyl flooring, utility, WC, three bedrooms and a bathroom, garage and garden.

For further information contact agents Scriven & Co on 0121 4224011 or visit the website www.scriven.co.uk



Lettings and Sales

01384 277701

rightmove.co.uk

Zoopla.co.uk

KINGSWINFORD



MOUNT PLEASANT

FOR SALE £225,000
Extended Semi Detached House with Hall, Refitted Kitchen, Study/Dining Room, Lounge, Conservatory, Play Room, Ground Floor WC, Three Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking.

BRIERLEY HILL



FOXDALE DRIVE

FOR SALE £59,950
Purpose Built Second Floor Flat with NO UPWARD CHAIN, Ideal First Time Purchase comprising of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, Benefits include: Off Road Parking, Communal Grounds.

UPPER GORNAL



HILL STREET

FOR SALE £73,950
Nicely Presented Leasehold First Floor One Bedroom Flat Comprising of Entrance hall, Lounge, Kitchen with built in cooker, Bedroom, Bathroom, Benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

WORDSLEY



BALMORAL ROAD

FOR SALE £159,950
Semi Detached House with NO UPWARD CHAIN comprising of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Understair storage, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front and Rear Gardens, Garage, Driveway.

KINGSWINFORD



GREENFIELDS ROAD

FOR SALE £127,500
Semi Detached Property comprising of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Frontage, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Garden.

KINGSWINFORD



MOSS GROVE

FOR SALE £179,500
Detached Property. To Include: Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Morning Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway, Garage and well maintained Front & Rear Gardens.

WORDSLEY



STABLE LODGE

FOR SALE £124,950
Impressive, well presented property in private courtyard comprising of: Entrance Hall, Large Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen/Diner, One Bedroom, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking

AMBLECOTE



KING WILLIAM STREET

FOR SALE £155,000
Semi Detached Property with NO UPWARD CHAIN, having had a full refurbishment to include high quality kitchen and bathroom. Appliances, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms and Shower Room

WORDSLEY



CROWNOAKES DRIVE

£475 pcm*
Modern Ground Floor Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, Maintained Gardens, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD



HAWKESWELL DRIVE

£595 pcm*
Mid Terrace House, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Downstairs Cloakroom, TWO BEDROOMS, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

AMBLECOTE



KING WILLIAM STREET

£380 pcm*
SHARED ACCOMMODATION, Part Furnished, Communal Kitchen & Bathroom, Two Bedrooms (occupied) FIRST FLOOR: Two Bedrooms, (one occupied), Office, Communal Toilet with wash hand basin, RENT INCLUDES UTILITY BILLS

WALL HEATH



PARKVIEW COURT

£425 pcm*
Mid-Terrace Bungalow, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED.

BRIERLEY HILL



DADFORD VIEW

£395 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge/Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Allocated Parking, Front Garden, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED

DUDLEY



MIDDLEPARK ROAD

£575 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Refurbished and Re-decorate, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, New Kitchen with built in appliances, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gardens Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

DUDLEY



MINEHEAD ROAD

£570 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage

KINGSWINFORD



SANDHURST ROAD

£625 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Bedroom, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage, Unfurnished

PENSNETT



KIRKHAM GARDENS

£520 pcm*
Mid Terrace House, Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Parking for 2 cars, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

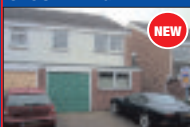
NORTON



THE BROADWAY

£550 pcm*
Large First Floor Flat, Entrance, Good Sized Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, Off Road Parking to rear, Gas Central Heating, UNFURNISHED, NO PETS, DSS CONSIDERED

STOURBRIDGE



LICKEY ROAD

£625 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Study, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

DUDLEY



RUSSELLS HALL ROAD

£625 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazed, Unfurnished

OLDSWINFORD



THE FURLONGS

£585 pcm*
Semi Detached Cottage, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Two Bedrooms, Loft Room, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating

DUDLEY



ATTINGHAM DRIVE

£350 pcm*
First Floor Studio Apartment, Communal Entrance, Open Plan Kitchen, Lounge/Dining/Bedroom Area, Shower Room, Car Port, Communal Grounds, Double Glazing, Electric Heating

LYE



LOVE LANE

£395 pcm*
Top Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Allocated Parking, Communal Grounds, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, UNFURNISHED

SEDGLEY



HAMILTON CLOSE

£695 pcm*
Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

(Administration/application fees will apply)

NO LET NO FEE NO SALE NO FEE

Main Office: Select House 120 High Street, Amblecote DY8 4DA
60a Manor Park, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8AG
www.selectsalesandlettings.com

Ford transit picks up award

By David Banner

The all-new Ford Transit Courier has received the top accolade at this year's What Van? Awards by winning Van of the Year 2015.

Ford continued its winning streak with the Transit Courier also picking up Small Van of the Year, the Transit Connect topping the Light Van category and Ranger collecting Pick-up of the Year.

The Ford Fiesta Van was also highly commended in its category, and the Transit Custom likewise in the Medium Van category.

"Ford's revolution of its light commercial line-up has seen it offer the most comprehensive range of high-quality vehicles in the marketplace, in terms of visual appeal, driver appeal, innovation, technology and efficiency," said What Van? editor, Paul Barker.

"This massive investment has culminated with our Van of the Year Transit Courier offering a massive step forward in the small van segment, succeeding our only ever twice-Van of the Year winner the Transit Custom, while the excellent new Transit Connect is also a worthy winner of the Light Van category."

The awards come at the end of a two-year overhaul of the entire Ford Transit range which included the addition this year of What Van's? Van of the Year: the Transit Courier.

Dagenham-built engine achieves 76.3mpg and 97g/km CO2 emissions,

and the multi-award-winning 1.0-litre EcoBoost offers 54.3mpg and 119g/km CO2 - 15 per cent better than its closest rival.

Additionally, the stylish all-new Ford Transit Courier offers 10 per cent more load volume than its direct competitors with 2.3m3 (SAE) behind the bulkhead, as well as a longer load length at floor level, and greater access width through the sliding side doors.

Sales of the Ford Transit continue to dominate, with both Transit and Transit Custom leading their segments with 26.6 per cent and 33 per cent market share YTD respectively.

The entire Ford commercial vehicle range will now be available from Ford's designated commercial dealer network, called Transit Centres, which will be rolled out across the country next year.

Terry Rayner, director, Transit Centres, Ford of Britain said: "I am delighted to receive the What Van? Van of the Year award for the Transit Courier - a Ford first in the small van segment. 2015 will be the first full year that the entire four-van Transit range will be available and will coincide with the launch of Ford's specialist commercial vehicle dealerships and service centres.

"Transit Centres will be rolled out in over 100 locations across the UK, plus a further 90 service only points, cementing Ford's position as the largest commercial vehicle dealer network nationally."

Additionally, the Ford Transit was a recent winner at the 2014 ACFO Awards, the premier organisation for fleet operators, winning Large Van of the Year for the fourth consecutive year.



'Ford's revolution of its light commercial line-up has seen it offer the most comprehensive range of high-quality vehicles in the marketplace.'



Halesowen Autos

Quality Used Cars At Great Prices

<p>06/56 Kia Sportage XS 2.0 Diesel 78k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Air Con £5995 / £35 Per Week</p>	<p>08/08 Volkswagen Polo 1.2 E, *ONLY 28k MILES* *LOW INSURANCE* Silver, CD £4195 / £24 Per Week</p>
<p>08/08 Suzuki SX4 1.6 GLX ONLY 16k MILES, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD £5495 / £32 Per Week</p>	<p>08/08 Fiat Bravo 1.4 Dynamic 50k, Red, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player £4195 / £24 Per Week</p>
<p>09/09 Vauxhall Corsa 1.3 SXI CDTi Diesel 3dr, 52k, Grey Metallic, Alloys, Air Con £4995 / £30 Per Week</p>	<p>08/08 Nissan Micra 1.2 16v (79bhp) Acenta+ 3dr, 48k, Grey Metallic, *LOW INSURANCE* Air Con £3995 / £23 Per Week</p>
<p>04/54 Audi A4 Sport 1.9 TDI 130 Diesel Automatic 72k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con £4995 / £29 Per Week</p>	<p>07/07 Suzuki Swift 1.3 GL one owner 47k, Burnt Orange, CD Player, E/Windows £3995 / £22 Per Week</p>
<p>07/07 Ford Fusion 1.6 TDCi Plus Diesel 48k, Silver, *ONLY £30 ROAD TAX* *AVERAGE 62 MPG* Alloys £4695 / £27 Per Week</p>	<p>05/05 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 115 6sp LX Diesel *ONLY 46k MILES* Beige Metallic, Air Con, CD Player £3295 / £18 Per Week</p>
<p>09/09 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SXI 5dr, 46k, Black, Alloys, Air Con, CD £4695 / £27 Per Week</p>	<p>07/57 Kia Picanto 1.1 LS 53k, Silver, *LOW INSURANCE* *ONE OWNER* CD Player, £2995 / £17 Per Week</p>
<p>07/57 Renault Kangoo 1.6 Expression Automatic *ONLY 37k MILES*, Red, E/Windows £4495 / £26 Per Week</p>	<p>05/05 Vauxhall Vectra 1.9 CDTi Club 90k, Grey Metallic, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player £2495 / £14 Per Week</p>
<p>08/08 Vauxhall Tigra 1.4i 16v Exclusiv Hard Top Convertible 44k, Ice Blue Metallic, Black Leather, Alloys £4495 / £26 Per Week</p>	<p>04/54 Vauxhall Meriva 1.6 Energy 5dr, 74k, Black, Alloys, Air Con, CD £2195 / £15 Per Week</p>
<p>08/58 Fiat Panda 1.4 100hp, 39k, *LOW INSURANCE* Black, Alloys, Air Con, CD £4295 / £25 Per Week</p>	<p>02/02 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Club 5dr, *ONLY 27k MILES* Silver, Air Con, CD £1995 / £21 Per Week</p>

Finance example: Vauxhall Corsa 1.3 SXI Diesel, Cash Price £4995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 12% APR, 48 Payments of £122.28 (£30.50 per week) Total amount payable £6169.44 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

**FINANCE AVAILABLE • PART EXCHANGE
WARRANTIES AVAILABLE • WE BUY CARS**

**1 CROSS STREET, HALESOWEN B63 4RT
Tel: 0121 501 3840
www.halesowenautos.co.uk**

Express & Star

VIRTUAL MOTORSHOW

THINKING OF BUYING A NEW CAR IN THE NEW YEAR?

**REVIEW YOUR NEW CAR BY
VIDEO BEFORE YOU TEST DRIVE!**



**KEEP UP TO DATE
WITH THE LATEST
MANUFACTURER AND
DEALER OFFERS BY
VISITING OUR SHOW**

DRIVING EXPERIENCE - COST OF OWNERSHIP - DESIGN & BUILD - RANGE

**• Video reviews • Dealership information
expressandstar.com/drivetime**

All-new i40 for Europe revealed by Hyundai

By Matt Joy

Hyundai Motor has introduced its new i40 Tourer and Saloon, enhancing the brand's product line-up in Europe's competitive D-segment.

A flagship car for Hyundai Motor in Europe at its launch, the original i40 has achieved sales of 100,000 units and played an important role in changing customers' perceptions of the Hyundai brand.

The new i40 now features refined exterior styling, an up-graded range of responsive, efficient diesel engines, the addition of a new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission, improvements in ride and handling and several 'first-for-Hyundai' active safety and convenience features. Many of the new technologies were first seen on the new Hyundai Genesis.

Designed and engineered at the company's European R&D headquarters in Rüsselsheim, Germany, the refreshed design for New i40 retains the distinctive visual appeal and practicality of the original model, combining practicality with engaging design.

Exterior enhancements include an updated design for front and rear lamps, a more sophisticated hexagonal grille, a new front bumper, and new integrated LED fog lamps as introduced in Genesis. The profile is refreshed by newly-designed 16- and 18-inch alloy wheels.

New i40 is available with an enhanced engine line-up of two Euro6-compliant diesel power units from 115 PS up to 141 PS. These have been re-engineered to deliver increased responsiveness and efficiency.

Upgraded

A new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission is available for the upgraded 1.7-litre diesel engine with 141 PS. It provides improved fuel efficiency, and offers drivers fully automatic operation or manual gear changes through paddles on the steering wheel for greater driver involvement.

Technologies included: Integrated Stop & Go (ISG), alternator management system, and active front flaps help to further reduce emissions and fuel consumption.

For better cornering and to improve the overall agility, the New i40 now offers Advanced Traction Cornering Control (ATCC) (subject to market specification). The system uses electronic sensors to emulate the behaviour of a limited-slip differential during cornering, providing additional traction, better grip and improved handling.

New i40's Drive Mode settings are enhanced by the new Rear Electronic Damping Control System (ECS) (subject to market specification), which will be equipped on the rear axle of the most popular New i40 body type – the Tourer. The driver will also be able to adapt the suspension settings through the drive modes to suit his driving style. In addition to the rear suspension, the steering, the transmission logic* and throttle response* are all influenced by the selection. This technology follows the electronic damping control introduced on the Genesis.

Hyundai has expanded the comprehensive list of available active and passive safety technologies for the New i40 even further.

As well as the existing Lane Keep Assist System, additional functions include the new Smart High Beam (SHB) system (available subject to market specification), which monitors approaching traffic and automatically turns off the high beam to avoid dazzling other drivers. This system was first seen on the premium Genesis model.

The new Speed Limit Identification Function system checks roadside signs and displays a current speed limit alert to the driver via the new TFT display on the instrument panel. It is the first time Hyundai is bringing this technology to its line-up. (available subject to market specification)

Also introduced in the New i40 is the company's latest navigation technology with enhanced touchscreen functionality and new visualisation for better usability. The two new audio systems are available with several new features including DAB technology for the top version.

Like all new Hyundai models, the new i40 is backed up by Hyundai's unique, Europe-only, Five Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty package.



BRINDLEY SALE

on all new and used cars

FINAL WEEK OF SALE

don't miss out

Visit brindley.co.uk/sale
for your nearest dealership and
to search our online offers





GET MORE PAY LESS



NEW
SHAPE

AT **T Wall Ford**

62 REG NEW FIESTA

1.25 82 Style 5dr

• Red • Electric windows
• Air Con • 9,531mls

ONLY £7,999



59 Reg Toyota Yaris 1.4 D4-D TR 5dr
Diesel, Grey, Rear sensors,
30,107mls

£6,499



61 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.6 TDi Zetec S
Black, Bluetooth, City Pack,
34,314mls WAS £8999

£8,499



11 Reg VW Golf 1.6 TDi 105PS Match 5dr
Red, front and rear park assist,
Air Con, 47,310mls
WAS £10999

£9,999



11 Reg Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Auto 5dr
Mosselle, City Pack,
29,949mls
WAS £7999

£7,499

61 REG NEW FOCUS

1.6 125 Zetec

• White • App Pack • 22,282mls

WAS £9999

now £9,499



		WAS	NOW
08 Reg	Peugeot 1.0 Kiss 3Dr £20 Road Tax, Black, 48880mls.....	£3,699	£3,699
09 Reg	Corsa 1.4 Design 5Dr A/C, Silver, 32043mls.....	£4,999	£4,999
11 Reg	Chevrolet Spark 1.2 Lt 5Dr A/Con, Ice Blue, 22000mls.....	£4,999	£4,999
57 Reg	Peugeot 207 Sw 1.6 Hdi Sw 207 Sport 110Ps Estate, Silver, 48900mls.....	£5,499	£5,499
11 Reg	Toyota 1.0 Vvti Aygo Go 3Dr, White, 27500mls.....	£5,599	£5,599
61 Reg	Renault 1.2 Clio Dynamic 5Dr A/C Alloys, Black, 11991mls.....	£6,499	£6,499
60 Reg	Audi A3 1.6Tdi Technik Cab., White, 46750mls.....	£12,999	£12,999
08 Reg	Ka Classic 1.3 Zetec Climate, Silver, 25106mls.....	£3,499	£3,499
61 Reg	Ka 1.2 Zetec 3Dr, Scuba, 11557mls.....	£6,999	£5,999
62 Reg	Ka 1.2 Grand Prix 2, Sunrise, 20617mls.....	£7,499	£6,999
60 Reg	Fusion 1.6 Zetec Automatic 5Dr • Rear Sens, Black, 28705mls.....	£5,499	£5,499
58 Reg	Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5Dr Btooth, Vision, 48789mls.....	£6,499	£5,999
60 Reg	Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 3Dr Rear Sensors, Magenta, 22472mls.....	£6,999	£6,999
09 Reg	Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5Dr, Spa, 29314mls.....	£6,999	£6,499
60 Reg	Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5Dr, Ink Blue, 33398mls.....	£7,499	£7,499
61 Reg	Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5Dr, Mid Sky, 28927mls.....	£7,999	£7,999
60 Reg	Fiesta 1.4Tdc Zetec 5Dr Btooth, Silver, 26496mls.....	£7,999	£7,499
12 Reg	Fiesta 1.4 Tdci Edge 3Dr Red, 28622mls.....	£7,999	£6,999
62 Reg	Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5Dr Btooth, White, 23272mls.....	£7,999	£7,999
60 Reg	Fiesta 1.6 Zetec S 3Dr Street Pk • Bt, White, 49721mls.....	£7,999	£7,999
62 Reg	Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5Dr Btooth, Silver, 11416mls.....	£8,499	£8,499
62 Reg	Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5Dr Btooth, Black, 14735mls.....	£8,499	£8,499
62 Reg	Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5Dr Btooth, Red, 3359mls.....	£8,999	£8,999
61 Reg	Fiesta 1.6 Tdci Zetec S Btooth • City Pk 3Dr, Black, 34314mls.....	£8,999	£8,499
12 Reg	Fiesta 1.6 Zetec S Street Pack • Btooth, Vision, 15241mls.....	£9,999	£8,999
62 Reg	Fiesta 1.4 Tdci Titanium 5Dr K/Less, Magenta, 19937mls.....	£9,999	£9,499
13 Reg	New Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5Dr Sync • City Pack, Nautical, 9971mls.....	£9,999	£9,999
13 Reg	New Fiesta 1.0 100 Zetec 5Dr Ecoboost Sync, Mid Sky, 22325mls.....	£9,999	£9,999
63 Reg	New Fiesta 1.0 125 Zetec S 3Dr 17" All • Priv, D.I.blue, 22028mls.....	£11,499	£11,499
63 Reg	New Fiesta 1.0 125 Zetec S 3Dr 17" All • Priv, White, 12245mls.....	£12,499	£11,999
14 Reg	New Fiesta 1.6 182 St2 3Dr Style Pack, Red, 3041mls.....	£14,999	£14,999
08 Reg	Focus 1.6 Zetec 5Dr S.o.r. (Ns), Ocean, 28917mls.....	£5,999	£5,999
10 Reg	Focus 1.8 Zetec S Sport Pk • Bt, Ocean, 32700mls.....	£7,499	£7,499
11 Reg	New focus 1.6 125 Zetec 5Dr, Mid Sky, 39906mls.....	£8,999	£8,499
61 Reg	New focus 1.6 125 Zetec 5Dr City Pk, Mid Sky, 21995mls.....	£9,499	£9,499
61 Reg	New focus 1.6 125 Zetec App Pk City Pk, White, 22282mls.....	£9,999	£9,499
62 Reg	New focus 1.6 Zetec 5Dr, Col Red, 22285mls.....	£10,499	£10,499
12 Reg	New focus 1.6 Tdci Estate Rear Sens, Black, 35310mls.....	£10,500	£9,999
13 Reg	New focus 1.6 182 Zetec S Eco Nav • Con Pk, Silver, 22425mls.....	£13,499	£12,999
63 Reg	New focus 1.0 125 Zetec S 18" Alloys, Red, 7949mls.....	£14,000	£13,499
10 Reg	Focus Rs 2.5 Rs 3Dr Lux Pack 1, Blue, 52977mls.....	£19,499	£19,499
61 Reg	C-Max 1.6Tdc Titanium City Pk, Red, 26983mls.....	£10,999	£10,499
61 Reg	Gr-C-Max 2.0Tdc Titanium Pwr Shift Cpk, Red, 11929mls.....	£12,999	£12,499
60 Reg	S-Max 2.0 Tdci Titanium 140 Ps, Black, 26500mls.....	£12,999	£12,999
61 Reg	S-Max 2.2 Tdci Titanium 200Ps Dastpk, Silver, 31401mls.....	£15,500	£14,999

Your local Ford Dealer



www.twallford.co.uk

Great value for money in new Jeep Renegade

Pricing for the all-new Jeep Renegade small SUV has just been announced. Order books for this exciting new addition to the Jeep range opened this week, ahead of its arrival mid-February.

With a starting price of just £16,995 on-the-road for the front-wheel drive 1.6-litre eTorq Evo 110hp Sport, the new car represents outstanding value for money.

At the top end of the exciting, all-new Renegade range, the highly specified 2.0-litre MJet 170hp 4WD Auto Low Trailhawk version costs £27,995 on-the-road, and features 17-inch aluminium wheels, dual zone climate control, transfer case, front suspension and fuel tank skid plates, heated front seats and steering wheel, leather upholstery and rear parking sensors.

Unique

A special 'Opening Edition' version, limited to just 200 units will also be available at launch in Alpine White or Omaha Orange, both incorporating a black painted roof and with a unique interior and 18-inch wheels.

The all-new Jeep Renegade is the first model in the brand's history to be built in Italy and the first vehicle from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles to be jointly developed by Italian and American designers and engineers. It will be sold in more than 100 countries including the United States.

In the UK, the new Jeep will be available in a full-range comprising four different trim levels – Sport, Longitude, Limited and Trailhawk – equipped with efficient turbo-diesel and petrol engines and available in four-wheel drive or front-wheel drive configurations.

Packed with a strong style and personality, and the right size for both city and countryside, the new Renegade has best-in-class interior roominess, excellent on-road driving dynamics and supreme off-road capabilities. It has also just been awarded a Euro NCAP five-star safety rating.

The car's advanced 4x4 systems incorporate a category-exclusive rear axle disconnect that switches seamlessly between

two- and four-wheel-drive for reduced energy loss when 4x4 capability isn't needed, improving fuel efficiency in the process. And the first-in-segment nine-speed automatic transmission ensures benchmark performance both on- and off-road.

From any angle Renegade reveals the distinctive design cues of the brand's stylistic heritage, such as round headlamps, signature seven-slot grille and trapezoidal wheel arches.

Two open-air roof systems will be available to provide customers with open-air freedom: a large electric sliding glass roof or the unique-to-segment 'My Sky' – its two panels can be removed and stowed in the boot.

The interior features a modern, refined look, in line with the brand's DNA. The cabin is characterised by attention to detail, innovative colour combinations, high-quality materials, advanced technological contents and clever and functional storage areas.

Standard equipment in the well-equipped entry-level Sport includes air conditioning, DAB radio with touchscreen and Bluetooth, electric parking brake, 16-inch alloy wheels, tyre pressure monitoring, and remote central locking.

Longitude adds features including 17-inch aluminium wheels, six-speaker audio system, roof rails, body coloured door mirrors and handles, cruise control, and front fog lamps.

Limited version further adds 18-inch aluminium wheels, chromed exhaust tip, Forward Collision Mitigation, heated front seats and steering wheel, leather upholstery, privacy glass and rear parking sensors.

"We have all been eagerly awaiting Renegade – here at Jeep, our customers, dealers and the media – and its arrival is now just a few weeks away," says Damien Dally, head of brand, Jeep UK.

"It's exactly what the Jeep brand needs now and certainly, we have seen a huge interest in this exciting new car.

"Jeep is the original 'Go Anywhere, Do Anything' brand, and we are confident that we can offer great cars at exceptional value to keep Renegade at the front of all prospective buyers' minds."



T Wall Ford

High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford, DY6 8XB

Tel: 01384 288 333

Pictures for illustration purposes only, offers subject to stock availability, terms and conditions apply.

Buy Local, Sell Local

funeral directors

Wombourne Funeral Services
3rd Generation
Family Business
Monumental Masons
24hr Personal Service
Private Chapels of Rest
Pre-paid Funeral Plans
Wombourne 01902 892655
Perton 01902 756850
Kivier 01384 873499

J.T. BROOKES

Independent family run
Funeral Directors
24 hour service
Brierley Hill 01384 77098
Kingswinford 01384 296683
Hagley 01562 888041
www.nedowning.co.uk

lost & found

LOST - Cocker Spaniel, lemon/white roan, since Sunday, Wollaton area. Contact 01384 441050 or 07530 426866.

MISSING
Rakegate / Oxley, Wolverhampton, from Renton Road, back of allotments.
Small black female cat. Smooth haired, thin, young, very nervous.
Any information please ring 01902 567603.

religious notices

christadelphian

THE MIRACLE OF ISRAEL Their wanderings, January 11, at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford. Or write to The Christadelphians, FREEPOST WY1681, Kingswinford DY6 9BR for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

1 Family

education & tuition

CLOISTERS
STOURBRIDGE TUTORS Est 1992
West Midlands Premier Agency
Home individual tutoring
LOCAL QUALIFIED TUTORS
Protection of Children Act
regulated and Police checked
Primary, 11+, SATS,
Secondary, GCSE, A, Deg. etc.
0121 212 4986
01902 671683
www.cloisters tutoring.co.uk
NEW TUTORS WELCOME

elderly & disabled

World of Mobility
New Stairlifts from £1,400 fitted

Electric Rise & Recline Chairs from £495

SCOOTERS/ELECTRIC BEDS
MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS FROM £110

We offer excellent customer service and aftercare on all our products.

Showroom 108C Brettell Lane, Ambicote Stourbridge
DY8 4BS or call 01384 378252
OPEN MON-SAT FREE PARKING AT REAR

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

caravans / motorhomes

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN for you and achieve the best possible price. Seven Valley Leisure, Stourbridge DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

4 BERTH CARAVAN, Bailey 4 berth, with full awning and accessories. Clean and tidy, ready to go. Bargain £2,195 only. 07806 894657.

caravans wanted

ALL CARAVANS WANTED
Any Age or Condition
CASH
WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bob on 07787 833833

CARAVAN WANTED

Anything considered.
07770 763335.

music shop

WANTED
CLASSICAL MUSIC LPS
Columbia, Decca, HMV etc.
Orchestral, Chamber, Opera.
Best prices paid.
Also CDs.
07975 958726.

sports & leisure

Free Ads
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
www.expressandstar.com
/bookanad

mind, body & soul

clairvoyance

CLAIRVOYANT JOHN STARKEY.
Private appointments, home visits and telephone readings. Call 01902 334224. www.john-starkey.com.

weddings

car hire

A ALL YEAR DISCOUNT! White Rolls Cloud, Shadow & Vintage with free hire of Jaguar. 01384 236188 / 07970 717669 www.elite-wedding-services.magix.net

3 Home & Services

furniture

LOUNGE SUITE, 2 seat settee, 2 arm chairs, beige. Reversible cushions. In good condition. Buyer to collect. £180. o.n.o. 01922 452286

in your garden

TOP SOIL, Building Sand
Paving/Concrete Sand
Decorative Gravels
Delivered Bagged or Loose
01902 893226

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester
Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins
• Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys
• Clocks • Paintings • All silver
• Chinese items • Old Ivory.
Pre 47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Antique, old, reproduction. Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

ALL BOXED / LOOSE
RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
WANTED
ANY GAUGE OR AGE
Also live steam, also Diecast,
Dinky, Corgi, Spot On.
Guaranteed top cash prices paid!!
0121 602 2569/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs.
Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection.
All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days.
Digital aerials, Sky installation.
Wall mounts & TV setups.
07850 330251

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY
*Advertise any item
FREE up to the
value of £250 go to:
www.expressandstar.com
/bookanad
*T&C's apply

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 aerial into 2 rooms £90
1 aerial into 4 rooms £130
Work Guaranteed
Same Day Service
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

blinds

AB-Blinds
Super 6
6 Child Safe Verticals
Fitted from only £169
Call 0800 0347111
www.ab-blinds.co.uk

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value. Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

damp proof control

DAMP, CONDENSATION, WOOD-WORM, dry-rot control. 40 years exp. Free surveys. 01902 324727.

double glazing

UPVC BACK DOORS from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. Windows/Fascia's, 01922 442720.

driveways & patios

PAVEWAYS
Paving your way
25% OFF
WITH THIS ADVERT

Driveways, Patios, Landscaping Specialists
• NO DEPOSIT • PAY ON COMPLETION
5yr guarantee,
fully insured and registered company
01902 275275
www.pavewaysuk.co.uk

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL
Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc.
All domestic and commercial work.
07786 85897/01902 846167.

fencing

Chestnut Sheds and Fencing
Quality wooden buildings at great prices
Sheds built to customer specifications any size deluxe fence panels, fitting available.
All manufactured at our premises.
www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk
01384 913422

PORTWAY FENCING *SPECIAL OFFER*

10 Days of quality fencing.
concrete posts, gravel boards & heavy duty panels supplied and fitted for **£695.00**
www.portwayfencing.com
83 Portway Rd. Wednesbury, WS10 7DZ
Office: 0121 531 5250
Mobile: 07866 137656

gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...

Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING

Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit
www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

JEZ'S GARDEN SERVICES
Lawns cut, Borders, Garden clearances
Trees lopped and shaped
Fencing, Slabbing...
Please call: 01384 403353 or 07929 600636

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

lock services

SECURE LOCKS Lock replacement doors/windows BS3621 insurance approved Closers/Fire doors, panic bars 07840467642 / 0793888970

logs

HARDWOOD/ SOFTWOOD SEASONED LOGS FOR SALE
Loads/Bulk Bags from £50. Delivery available
01902 882115 / 07768 392009
www.sandyfieldtreeservices.co.uk

painters / decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painter and Decorator
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum waste.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194

plastering

P.D.P PLASTERING & TILING
All aspects of plastering & Tiling, reliable, professional service
Call Pete: 07505662778
www.pdpplastering.com

plumbing & heating

Midland Energy Solutions
All plumbing, heating and gas work.
Call Luke on
01902 488770
07584 062483

reclaimed materials

Trade Suppliers of Traditional Reclaimed Building Materials
Demolition services available
Reclaimed tile, slate and brick bought and sold.
Tel: 01384 234592
Mobile: 07896 059141
Email: andybarker63@hotmail.co.uk
www.abrreclamation.co.uk

D S MARSH PLUMBING

All aspects of plumbing
work undertaken.
Heating, Gaswork.
Call Steve: 07366 270745 or
Dan: 07807 818730

removals

A1 KINGSWINFOR REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES

Single items,
Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates,
FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

ABLE REMOVALS

Local & Distance
Domestic & Commercial
Competitive Prices
Moves from only £99
Call 07870 341089

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
0800 587 0377
or 07749 941319

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2899 or 07815 043724

CALL DEANI Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house item. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01302 741546 or 07899 635852.

roofing

CA Roofing & Building Services

Tiling & Slating, New Roofs, Flat Roofs, Roof Repairs, Lead Work, Facias, Soffits & Guttering

COVERING THE MIDLANDS
Mobile: 07919 376402
Office: 0121 603 1757
FULLY INSURED COMPANY

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call: 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

PREMIER ROOFING New Roofs, Repairs, Facias & Gutters. Call: 0121 532 7601 or 07875 387445.

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!
No Skips, we load, fast friendly service. 25 Lister Rd. Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

WOODBURNING / MULTIFUEL
Stoves, Flues, installation. Free surveys. Stourbridge 01384 390183, severnvalleystoves.com

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, inoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust
01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

CAVALIER KING Charles Spannie puppies, KC reg. first vaccination, boys/girls. 01905 620039.

CHIHUAHUA, male, 5 years old, £200.
Telephone 01902 736804.

CHIHUAHUA PUPS 2 boys, £450 each. One girl from another litter £600. All 12 weeks. 01902 651019.

LURCHER PUPPIES make good family pets or work, £150 each. 07779 742080.

MALE BLUE Staffordshire Bull Terrier puppy, 8 weeks old. £650. 07717 732945.

RESPONSIBLE HOMES NEEDED
BUTCH Yorkie boy, 9 years old.
SODA Jack Russell boy 4 years old

This two beautiful little dogs need a new home preferably together due to their owners ill health.
They have lovely temperaments and are vaccinated, neutered etc
Will separate if necessary also
MEGAN & MISTY Two Jack Russell cross girls three years old, spade.
For more info call 01384 252158.

5 Business & Farming

plant, machinery & tools

STIHL & VIKING SALES & SERVICE

Huge Range of Stihl & Viking in Store
Service Available On All Stihl & Viking Tools
Everything From Chain Saws To Spare Parts

Bob Richardson Tools
01384 482789
www.ToolsToday.co.uk
sales@toolstoday.co.uk

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY and Taxation services for Small Businesses. Fixed fees. Call 01902 343200

ACCOUNTS, BOOK KEEPING, PAYROLL, VAT New start-ups welcome. Phone Clover on: 01384 459714 or 07715 510749.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY, OLDBURY/ Blackheath 12 bed flats, deposit / rent neg. 0121 550 0664 or 07970 980955.

FOUR BEDROOM HOUSE to let in Netherton. CH, DG, 5PC=D. £147 pwk. Call 07949 433986.

SMART ROOMS in shared house in Netherton. Single £85pw, Double £95pw inc bills. No DSS. 01384 401747 / 07890 116130.

TIPTON ONE bed flat, unfurnished, double glazing, DSS ok.
Call or text 07554 076795.

bungalows

TWO BUNGALOWS
SEMI DETACHED
KIDDERMINSTER
Both two bedroom.

In need of modernisation.
Substantial plot of land.
Four car workshop at rear.
Sold as one unit.
£265,000.
Telephone 01562 822266 (after 7pm).

TWO BUNGALOWS
SEMI DETACHED
KIDDERMINSTER
Both two bedroom.

In need of modernisation.
Substantial plot of land.
Four car workshop at rear.
Sold as one unit.
£265,000.
Telephone 01562 822266 (after 7pm).

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

LOCAL INVESTOR can pay 10% more than all these guys.
Call Alex 07729 297901

HOME CASH BUYER
WILL PAY 15K MORE
Complete within 7 days
Ring Paul,
07870 341089

properties wanted

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE Thursday, January 8, 2015

properties wanted



BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

We Pay 100% of Purchase Price

We buy any house

EVERY TIME

We are a family run local business. Buying properties for over 30 years. A fair offer from people you can trust. No fees - Free solicitors.

We also buy Commercial & Industrial, Shops, factories, land, building plots....even your garden!

text GOAL to 88802 and we will call you back now.

Call Stan on



0800 08321718 or 01902 628047 24 hrs

we can buy your house in
0800 389 6788 24 hrs

wolverhampton properties

national homeowners helpline-co.uk in a mess? talk in confidence we can help

LOOK

WE BUY ANY HOUSE

ANY AREA ANY CONDITION

24-7 0800 085 6626

I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!

FOR THE BEST PRICE ON YOUR HOME Call 0800 783 2822 24 hrs

GUARANTEED

• Guaranteed offer* • Any condition • Free solicitors • No fees*

Deurmark Homes



+ SICK

of trying to sell your house Call the House Doctor Now for the best price 0800 085 2455

sell you house **we are just a phone call away**
• Any Circumstances
• Any condition • No fees
Fast completion
0800 085 2455

pink

we pay more

Call Free 0800 169 1118

I BUY ANY HOUSE 4 CASH QUICK AND EASY
call Alex
0800 917 1233
Anytime

SOLD

One phone call
Solves all your problems
Sell your house now
a guaranteed offer, no fees, fast completion any condition, any circumstances
Local Investor
01902 628047

CALL PENNY for TOP PRICES NOW
*Local *Honest *Reliable
0800 389 6788

PICK UP the phone CALL NOW
Best Price
Sam 07756 022 973
(24 Hours)

A Better Cash Deal
Its simple as that... you will get the best deal on your home from **FIRST GENERAL HOMES**
0800 917 1233

Get Up to 100% For Your House - Fast!

- Any property. Any condition. Anywhere
- Get up to 100% of the market value
- Free valuation. Free consultation
- 100% Confidential. No obligation

Fast Sale Maximum Value
The Property Ombudsman



UP TO 100% PAID

SOLD

NO OBLIGATION FREE CONSULTATION

24/7 Helpline 0800 092 5743
CALL NOW 01902 489 500

YellowSpringbok.co.uk

7 Jobs

courses

BILLY THOMAS
BSV Driver Training
DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS
HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID)
7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY
CAR & TRAILER (B+E)
MINIBUS (D1)
1-2-1 TRAINING
INITIAL CPC TRAINING & ADR
CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV
from 7m blocks - Full 55hrs
01902 744726 / 07831 646601

courses

SAFE DRIVING FOR LIFE "QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS"
FREE ASSESSMENTS • FREE THEORY TEST TRAINING
HGV, PCV, ALL LICENCE CATEGORIES.
DRIVER CPC COURSES & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT COURSES
CALL FOR A BROCHURE OR POP IN AND SEE US
01902 312800
www.hgvdrivertraining.co.uk

TOP GEAR
Driver Training
• LGV / PCV Training
• 1-1 Gold Standard tuition
• Free Assessments
• CPC Courses
• Driver Medicals
• Caravan & Horse Box
Tuition available
0121 585 0834
www.topgear-lgv.com

BIRMINGHAM 21-22 FEBRUARY
COVENTRY 18-19 MARCH
TAMWORTH 8-9 APRIL
Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
Introduction to Phlebotomy
♦ TWO DAY ACCREDITED COURSES
♦ NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
HIGH DEMAND IN HOSPITALS, G.P. SURGERIES, COMMUNITY, PRIVATE SECTOR, MILITARY, ETC.
Book online or more info: **www.geopace.com**
No previous experience or qualifications required

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN SAXO DESIRE 2003, MoT April, good runner. £500 ono. 07816 818297.

FORD ESCORT silver, 2000, 1597cc, 1 owner from new, 86,000k 12 months MoT, very clean and tidy, £465 ono. 07584 191793.
FORD FIESTA FLIGHT, 2001, red, petrol, 3 door, 47,500 miles, MoT'd Till June, sun roof. £500 ono. 07976 249031.
HYUNDAI COUPE T Reg, 32,000 miles, 3 owners, automatic, 10 months MoT, £700 o.n.o. 01902 659047.
PEUGEOT 106 1.1L ZEST, 3 door, long MoT, sunroof, £325 ono. Telephone 07760 887220.
PEUGEOT 206 1.3, 05 plate, 59,349 miles, metallic blue, six months MoT, £1,100. 07532 002180.
ROVER 75 Connoisseur 03, all leather interior, heated seats, MoT till end of March 2015, £800 ono. 07976 375078.
VAUXHALL CORSA, 2003 (52 plate), 1.2xi, 100,000 miles, green, 3 door, MoT till July 2015, £900 ono. 07923 057820.
VW POLO E Hatchback 3dr, 1000cc, blue, 12 months MoT, very clean and tidy, must be seen. £795 ono. 07904 427555.

jobs.expressandstar.com REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

cars over £1500

BMW 325 Ci CONVERTIBLE
2006, 74,000 miles.
MoT till July 15. Power hood.
Black. Alloys. Air Con.
Cruise Control.
New car forces sale.
£4,500 ono
07505 137118.

FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA, 2004,
56,000 miles, baby blue, MoT, very
clean, a/c, fsh, £2,000.
07522 475039.

HONDA CR-V VTEC SE SPORT
2004, grey, 1998cc, 12 months
MoT, excellent condition.
£1,700 ono.
07963 393529.

MERCEDES 180 KOM 06 plate,
silver, petrol, tinted glass, MoT'd,
excellent condition, £3,995, 07944
438513.

MERCEDES E320CDI AVANTGARD
2004 123,000 miles, silver,
MoT, panoramic sunroof,
leather interior, Sat Nav, DVD,
extras. Excellent condition.
£5,995 ono.
01902 655019.

EXCELLENT
CONDITION

NISSAN MICRA SPORT
2006, 53,500 miles, SR, silver,
electric windows, electric
mirrors, air con, 6CD, 5 door,
alloys, climate control, MoT,
lovely car.
£2,495 ono.
07725 403038.

PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi SE SW,
2010, black, 53,000 miles, FSH,
very clean car, 2 owners from new,
£6,150 ono 07503 000940.

**TOYOTA LAND CRUISER
AMAZON VX**
7 seater, 4.7 LPG petrol, X reg,
2000, long MoT, 125,000 miles.
Top of the range,
Nice condition,
£5,800 May Part exchange.
Telephone 07904 612854.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 petrol, 3dr,
silver, 59 plate, 26,000 miles, lady
owner, clean and genuine car,
£4,600 ono. 07503 000940.

classic cars

CLASSIC CARS WANTED
Private cash buyer
Instant cash settlement.
Any age, any condition.
Call Market Drayton.
01630 652993.

commercial
vehicles

FORD TRANSIT, 1996, MoT June,
£500.
Telephone 07946 417363.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Cit, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto,
207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
MANUAL & AUTOMATIC
AD/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available.
07970 200066 / 01922 780250
01562 870050 / 01384 234954
01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded
that it is an offence under the Scrap
Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy
scrap cars/metal for cash.

A B SPARES

Pays More
All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
Anything Considered
Free Collection
Scrap It Legally COD. Given Instant Payment.
01902 483110 / 0121 525 5813 daytime
01902 659775 evenings

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and
commercial. Spares for sale.
**NINE LOCKS VEHICLE
DISMANTLERS LTD**
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or
70553. Evenings 75397.
DY5 3JZ.

1st CHOICE
TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!
VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!

**ANYTHING CONSIDERED
FREE COLLECTION
WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS**
01902 562853
07977 499516
07895 346811 - 24 hrs

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR
ALL SCRAP CARS
VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts
available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid, HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 /
07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best
cash price for unwanted cars/vans.
07585 664389 / 07903 549849.

WANTED FORD TRANSIT van,
SWB, must be clean condition.
07950 837039. 01902 674772.

spares &
accessoriesaccessories &
services

CAR TRAILER 7X5FT
Dropdown tail board,
lights, jockey wheel, good
condition
£260 ono.
01691 661767 or 07980
573406.

clutches / brakes
/ gearboxesA CLUTCH
CHANGE
MOBILE

30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob
01384 251328 or
07972 169554 anytime

For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

mobile
mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service &
repairs. Headgasket, clutches and
cambelts. 07747 648469.

9
Local
Information

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you
may fax any advertising
requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 713146
or email **marie.hogg@**
expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a
name/contact number for
confirmation of receipt)

10
Personals

personal

GENT, 70'S
tall, slim, non smoker, likes
walking, seaside holidays, car
owner, would like to meet Lady,
same, 10 miles of Wolverhampton,
photo please (returned). All
replies answered. New Year -
New Life.
Box Number C19632 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your adver-
tisement today? We would respect-
fully remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or inac-
curacies on the first day of publica-
tion.

ACTIVE PENSIONER
Must live close to Bushbury
Crematorium.
Required to attend a grave with
flowers on a weekly basis.
For further details e-mail
muchall@aol.com

BUY LOCAL
SELL LOCAL

01902 317878
ClassifiedAds



Explore your world with

star★extraTRAVEL

See us online at:

www.expressandstar.com/starextratravel

UK trips, Europe by coach, air and Eurostar,
plus holidays further afield.

Brought to you by the

Express & Star

GET CUSTOMERS MOVING ADVERTISE

Advertisements in local newspapers and websites are the
most popular way of keeping an eye on the property market

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

Local Specialists



Aerials

LUKE'S LOCAL AERIALS
Stourbridge
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE **FREE QUOTES FIXED PRICES**
01384 351949
 Luke's Mobile: 07864 590543
 NEW DIGITAL AERIAL + MAST + CABLE £69
 DIGITAL AERIAL + CABLE to any room £59
 NEW CABLE £39 REMOVE AERIAL £29
 REPAIRS £39 TUNING £25
 SATELLITE DISH Fitted £69 DISH REPAIRS £39
 DIGITAL AERIAL To 2 Rooms JUST £80
 3 Rooms JUST £100 4 Rooms JUST £120

Alarms

METRO ALARMS AND SECURITY
Burglar Alarm Repairs
 Alarms from £249
 Alarms Serviced from £30.00
 • Home Alarm Installation
 • Upgrades Close Circuit TV
 • 30 years Experience
 NEW!! Security Cameras
 Fitted for you to view via your Smart Phone!
 Recorded 24 hours!
 Free Quotes & Advice
 01384 350 687
 07904 317 150 (anytime)
 www.metro-alarms.co.uk

Blinds & Curtains

Blinds4Less
 Leaving a good impression!
 Choose From a fantastic range!
 • Pleated • Venetians
 • Roman • Curtains
 • Vertical • Awnings
 • Roller • Shutters
 • 10% off thermally efficient Shutters and outdoor awnings!
 • 40% off Conservatory roof blinds!
 Give us a try before you buy!
 Contact us on
 01384 886162 / 01902 500204
 07989 588728
 Blinds4lessdirect.com

Builders

D H Household Maintenance
 Decking to DIY
 Plastering to Plumbing
 All areas covered
0121 422 8594
07985 548466

Chimney Sweeper

WILKINS
 CHIMNEY SWEEP
 TRADITIONAL BRUSH AND VACUUM SERVICE - NESTS REMOVED
 CAGES, CAPS AND COVILS FITTED
 • SWEEPING CERTIFICATES ISSUED
 PROFESSIONAL CLEAN SERVICE
 • FULLY INSURED • POLICE CHECKED
01384 930930
 wilkinschimneysweep.co.uk/
 halesowen-kidderminster

Driveways

DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS
 Block Paving and Tarmac
 Drives • Paths • Patios
 Slabbing • Red Tarmac
 Car Parks
 5 Year Guarantee On All Work
 Free Quotations and Advice
 Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190
 www.discountdriveways.co.uk

Double Glazing

Misted Sealed Units?
 Contact us for a free quote!
 Tel 01384 566100
 Email: quotations@blackcountryglazing.com
 BLACK COUNTRY GLAZING Est 1987

Double Glazing

MISTY UNITS REPLACED
 Buy Direct from the manufacturer
 Est. 1999
Reduce heat loss by up to 75%
 Also upgrade your existing double glazed units to Pilkington EnerGikare, it will help to reduce the amount of heat lost through your windows by up to 75%, lock, handles, hinges.
10 YEAR GUARANTEE - FREE QUOTATION
Delph Glazed Units
 Unit 32 Delph Rd Ind Est (by the tank), Brierley Hill DY5 2UA
 www.delphglazedunits.co.uk
 Telephone: 01384 573 074

Electricians

ACCURATE ELECTRICAL
Free Quotes
 Reliable, Friendly and Professional Service
 Rewires • Extensions • New Circuits etc.
 References Available
 Call Adam
 07804 097 023

RSD ELECTRICS
 All Domestic Electrical work
 including Alarms
 N.I.C.E.I.C.
 Registered
FREE QUOTES
 Call Ron on:
07773 645854
 or **01384 422182**

MULLARD ELECTRICAL SERVICES
 ALL TYPES OF DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL WORK
 UNDERTAKEN & FINISHED TO THE HIGHEST STANDARD
 Call Dan on:
 01384 263357
 or 07866 886364
Fascias, Soffits & Guttering

Roberts Guttering Services
 For All aspects of cleaning & repair call
 Robert for a free quote on
 07767869792

A M ELECTRICAL SERVICES
 Domestic, Commercial, Industrial
 Full And Part Rewires / Fuse Boards
 Upgrades / Shower / Extra Sockets
 PAT Testing / Safety Reports
 CCTV / Burglar Alarms
 Free Quotes And Advice Call
 0121 369 2370
 07785 781652

MB electric
 All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken
 Home rewiring from £800
 For a high quality local service call:
 01384 660398
 07939 503905
 mbelectric.co.uk

Fencing

Robins Timber COMPANY
 Every Kind of Timber for every Kind of Job
FENCING PANELS While Stocks Last ... Call for Details!
SHEET MATERIALS AND DIY SPECIALIST
 • SKIRTING • ARCHITRAVE • CLADDING
 • INTERNAL DOOR CASES • DECKING • TRELLIS
 • STAIR PARTS • ROUGH SAWN & PLANED TIMBER
 • GREEN MINERAL FELT • PHONE ORDERS WELCOME
 • GARDEN SLEEPERS • WOODEN PLANTERS
 • BIRD TABLES • CHIMNEAS
4 BIG BAGS KINDLING £10
2 BAGS ROCK SALT £10
 OPEN 7.30 AM-5 PM (MON-FRI) 8.30-1 PM (SAT) 10 AM-12.30 PM (SUN) CLOSED
 CANALSIDE IND ESTATE, WEDGBURY WAY BRETTELL LANE,
 BRIERLEY HILL, DY5 3JZ
 TEL: 01384 78857 EMAIL: ROBINSTIMBER@BTCONNECT.COM

Fencing & Gates
 All Garden Work Undertaken
 • Slabbing • Block Paving • Tree Felling
 • Turfing • Garden Clearance
NO JOB TOO SMALL
 Manufacturers of all Concrete Products
 eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards
 All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken
 Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)
 Call Steve on
01384 242891 or 07970 300586
 Gardening

Timber Tim LIMITED
 Professional Tree Services
 • Crown Reduction/Lifts •
 • Felling • Stump Grinding •
 • 24 hour Emergency Call Out •
 • Free Quotations • Fully Insured •
 HNPCT Qualified
 Local authority approved contractor
 All work carried out to BS3998
 www.timbertim.com
 Enquiries@timbertim.com
01384 78559
BRIERLEY HILL
07970 618998

Dal's Gardening & Tree Services
 • A Good reliable service,
 • A Name you can trust
 • All areas covered
 So don't delay phone today for a FREE quotation
07407 622855

Local Specialists
 Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

Local Specialists

Gardening

ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD
 *Tree Surgeon Specialist *Stump Grinding/Root Removal
 *Hedges Pruned/Shaped *Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
 *Fencing *Turfing *Concreting *Driveways & Patios
 *Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation
24/7 365 emergency callout service
01384 213644 or 07733 226568
 AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified,
 Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified
PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

Handyman

Midlands Handyman for Home Improvements
 e.g. • Flat pack furniture • Curtain and blind hanging • Felling sheds
 • Changing locks • Painting and decorating • Putting up shelves
 • Putting in upvc double glazing windows
 • Laying of ceramic/laminate floors • Hanging doors
 ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES
 Call Simon for a FREE Quote
0121 679 8968 / 07988 263578

Plumbing & Heating

R.S PLUMBING AND HEATING
 All General Plumbing Undertaken
 • Bathrooms Suites
 • Radiators / Tanks / Pumps Fitted
 • Outside Taps Fitted
 • Leaks Repaired
 • PipeWork Alterations • Local Friendly Service
 www.rsplumbing-halesowen.co.uk
 Call Richard: 07902 557 496

DY PLUMBING & HEATING
 Low cost hourly rates
 from £20 PH with no call out charges. 24 years exp
 We do the lot.
 Drips to full installs.
0800 7723998
07467 129189
 City & Guilds

KEN PERRY
 PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER
 Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing
 and Immersion Heaters,
 Multi Point Water Heaters,
 Landlord's Gas Certificates,
 Boilers changed
 Guild of Master Craftsmen
 Gas Safe Registered
STOURBRIDGE 392284

Plastering

DH PLASTERERS
 FROM boarding, skimming, patching and repairs to complete rooms
GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES
0121 422 8594 or 07985 548466

Local Specialists

Property Maintenance

ROWAN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LTD
 ★ Interior/Exterior Painting And Decorating
 ★ All Aspects Of Plastering And Specialist Machine Rendering
 ★ Rendering ★ Fascias, Soffits & Guttering
 ★ Flooring And Tiling ★ Plus Much More....
CALL NOW FOR A NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION
01384 213644 or 07733 226568
 AGE CONCERN & LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTRACTOR, CITY & GUILD QUALIFIED,
 PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE (£5 MILLION) ALL STAFF C.R.B. CERTIFIED
PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

To advertise your business and reach more than 56,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...
01384 399901

2

E-mail us at...
sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...
 Sue Jones, Stourbridge Chronicle
 3 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB

Local Specialists



Roofing



Quality

- uPVC • Fascias • Soffits • Guttering
- Tile Edging • Roofing

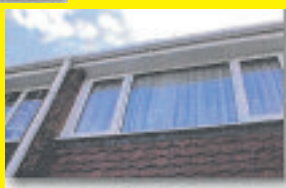
Also

CONCRETE GUTTERING

Specialist removal
Replacing with
Modern low maintenance
Upvc Fascias and Soffits



All work
guaranteed
with HomePro
Insurance



No Free
Gimmicks
Family
Business
Local
References
if required

Registered with



Membership
No. 554518



Giving homeowners peace of mind
**ALWAYS FREE ADVICE
AND QUOTATION
Freephone
0800 799 9413
to speak to Mark**
123 Amblecote Road, Brierley Hill,
West Midlands DY5 2YD

rubbish removals

Skip Hire

**AARON
RUBBISH
REMOVALS**
1 ITEM / FULL LOADS
FREE WHITE GOODS AND
SCRAP COLLECTION
Factory / Office / House
Clearance
Special Landlord Rates
01384 832277 /
07935 312913

**SKIP HIRE
IN HALESOWEN**
Minis - Midis
The best in the West
0121 561 5493
07956 664002

**Local
Specialists**

Specialists

**DRIVES • PATHS • PATIOS • COBBLES
JET WASHING SERVICE**

**FINE-LINE PAVING
(MIDLANDS) LTD.**

CONTACT ANDY OR GRAHAM NOW
FOR A FREE, NO OBLIGATION QUOTE
(01384) 869605
07950 659668 / 07754 676336
ALL BRICKWORK & GROUNDWORK UNDERTAKEN
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

www.fine-linepaving.co.uk

Local Specialists



ELITE PLASTICS



- Fascias • Soffits • Dry Verge
 - Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair
- Premium Products Expertly Fitted
With Full Manufacture Guarantee.

**For A Free Quote call
01384 468831 / 07985 575865**



Roofix Roofing
Flat roofing specialists

All types of flat roofing systems
Tiling Work, Fascia, Soffits and Guttering
Chimney Repointing, Free Quotations

Tel: 01902 560892
Mobile: 07952 442017
www.roofixwm.co.uk

star★extraTRAVEL

LONDON THEATRE BREAKS



Choose your show, price band*and how you want to travel

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket and an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel with full English breakfast.

Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £159.⁹⁵

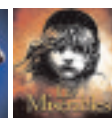
Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top price ticket for a Friday evening performance.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.
Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



**For a theatre brochure please call the
promotions team on (01902) 319999
(Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm),
or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel**

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

star★extraTRAVEL

For brochures please call the Promotions Team on (01902) 319999
(Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm) or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Washington, New York and Niagara Falls

Eight days various departure dates



US landmarks, including the giant domed Capitol building 'on the hill'. An optional guided city tour will bring to life some of these famous sights.

A visit is made to historic Philadelphia where the Independence Hall National Park is home to where the Declaration of Independence was prepared and, after the tolling of the Liberty Bell, first read to the nation in July 1776. Here an included guided city tour shows the colourful story of America's birth and the characters of the men, Benjamin Franklin and George Washington.

Enjoy a full day in the incomparable Big Apple. Take in its landmark skyscrapers, the green acres of Central Park, famous Fifth Avenue stores, glittering Broadway plus bustling Times Square. Two optional excursions are available, a guided city tour plus a helicopter ride.

Spend a morning in Niagara Falls to experience the noise and permanent misty spray that can be seen for miles around. Perhaps take a helicopter flight for a birds eye view, or enjoy lunch in a restaurant overlooking the Falls (optional excursions).



PRICE FROM **£999**

Discover one of the world's greatest natural wonders; the historic legacies of US capitals past and present, Philadelphia and Washington DC, plus the magic of New York.

This week-long touring holiday starts with an overnight stay at Niagara Falls before travelling south into Pennsylvania for a two night stay in Harrisburg, set on the Susquehanna River and home to the world-famous Hershey chocolate empire.

A full day has been planned for a visit to the capital, Washington DC, home to some of the most recognisable

INFO

- Return flights
- Six nights room only hotel accommodation, (2 nights each in Niagara, Harrisburg and Hasbrouck Heights)
- Visits to Washington DC, Philadelphia and New York
- Journey through up-state New York
- Visit to Niagara Falls
- All coaching in USA and Canada
- Optional excursions available to book
- Escorted by a tour manager in USA and Canada
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)



Longleat Safari and Adventure Park

Two days departing June 27



PRICE FROM **£129**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Day ticket to Longleat Safari and Adventure Park
- Visit to Bath
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Chatsworth House and the Peak District

Two days departing June 28



PRICE FROM **£95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Chatsworth House and gardens
- Tour of the Peak District
- Evening entertainment
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Portsmouth from Sea to Sky

Three days departing April 25



PRICE FROM **£209**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Full day at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- Portsmouth harbour cruise
- Ride to the top of Spinnaker Tower
- Entrance to the submarine museum
- Visit to Winchester
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Emmerdale Country and the Best of Yorkshire

Three days departing May 1, Jun 19, Sept 25



PRICE FROM **£159**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tours of Emmerdale and the Yorkshire Dales
- Short tour of Last of the Summer Wine country and visit to Holmfirth
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

London by rail

Two days departures most weekends



PRICE FROM **£129.⁹⁵**

- Return standard class rail travel (upgrade offered)
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star central London hotels
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Three-day option also offered from £189.95

Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTA Y5914)

Welsh Association of Male Voice Choirs at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing May 9



PRICE FROM **£129**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer London hotel
- Circle seat for the concert (upgrades offered)
- Sightseeing tour or free time in London
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

The Crown Jewels and Thames Dinner Cruise

Two days departing May 17 and Sept 20



PRICE FROM **£169**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Entrance to the Tower of London including the Crown Jewels exhibition
- Evening cruise on the River Thames including a hot two-course buffet dinner with a glass of wine
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Bletchley Park The Secrets of War

Two days departing May 23 and October 3



PRICE FROM **£119**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Bletchley Park
- Visit to Oxford
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Lake Garda Venice and Verona

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£639**

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Tour of Lake Garda
- Guided sightseeing tours of Venice and Verona
- Tour of the Dolomites (with an optional cable car ride payable locally)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Hidden Portugal

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£559**

- Return flights
- Seven nights four-star half-board accommodation
- Full day visit to Oporto and a port wine lodge
- Guided visits to Viana do Castelo and Valenca do Minho
- Explore the Vinho Verde vineyards
- Journey through Peneda Gêres National Park
- Optional excursions available to book
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Bruges by Eurostar

Four days various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£289**

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connection to London
- Return coach transfers overseas
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided walking tour of Bruges
- Visit to a traditional chocolate maker
- Visit to Ypres and the First World War battlefields
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by RivieraTravel (ABTA V4744)



Town side come into 2015 on a downer

Tipton Town 0 Causeway Utd 1
AFTER finishing 2014 on a high in the Midland Football League, Premier Division with a first win under the management duo of Nick Pugh and Wes Cox, Tipton will be disappointed to have opened 2015 with a lacklustre display.

Their opponents Causeway, themselves had a new man at the helm – Mark Jones who has Andy Mole since their last outing.

On a bitterly cold January day, the opening exchanges were even as the two sides – understandably, given the pressures of league positions – weighed each other up in midfield with only the sporadic effort on goal being comfortably taken by the two goalkeepers.

After 18 minutes it was the Tipton goal which felt the first real pressure, as a corner kick resulted in a goalmouth scramble which eventually saw Tipton ‘keeper Matt Martin collect the ball.

The deadlock was broken in the 44th minute when excellent work down the Causeway left resulted in the ball being squared to Sam Beasley who made no mistake in drilling the ball past Martin.

Course to train refs of future

A STAFFORDSHIRE college will host a course starting next week for anyone thinking of becoming a football referee.

The Staffordshire FA will run the course, starting January 12 at Erasmus Darwin College in Chasetown.

The course, which costs £110 per person, consists of five modules covering the 17 laws of the game.

These will be covering areas such as the art of positioning and movement, management strategies and ideas on decision-making and effective reporting of misconduct.

The course is open to anyone aged 16 and above, and for more information contact Gemma Turner on 01785 279828.

Lions cup fightback is not enough

Northampton 14 Lions 11
THE Lions travelled to Northampton for their Cup quarter-final against Old Scouts in good heart.

The first 15 mins proved crucial to the whole game with two tries to Scouts, with breaks through the midfield, both converted for a 14-0 lead.

At this point the Lions were clearly still on the bus and had yet to compete.

Slowly but surely the Lions began the process of working their way back and, for much of the remainder of the game, were the better side.

Rugby

They withstood the Scouts attacks for most of the rest of the half and, around the 20th minute Ben Tringham spelled panic down the Scouts right and Chance pounced for a fine try.

Ten minutes later a series of drives by the Lions and desperate defence by the home side in their own 22 with several attempts to kill the ball ended with Sam Wilson kicking a simple penalty when, with a little good fortune, a further try was beckoning. The

half ended with the Lions six points down.

In the first five minutes of the second half another bout of Lions pressure in the home 22 led to another penalty for Wilson to reduce the arrears to three points.

By now the Lions pack were beginning to dominate, with the front-row in on the charge and Stu Doolittle and Tom Gallup prominently athletic around the field and in the loose.

The remainder of the half was nip and tuck but the Lions looked the more dangerous, not least when, with around five minutes to go, infringements by Scouts led

to them being kicked back to their own 22.

A further infringement gave the Lions the chance of a catch and drive where the ball was agonisingly lost before it could be grounded.

A further penalty and lineout was, to Scouts’ credit, stolen and the pressure cleared.

A competitive game with both sides having their moments but the Lions came away feeling they could and should have won against a side top of their division.

Next week it is back to league action with the Lions facing Old Salts.

Weakened Stour side goes down by two

Stourbridge 20 Leicester Lions 22
WINGER Nathan Bressington celebrated his 102nd appearance with a try, but Stour conceded three to play catchup.

Stef Cooksammy’s try finally put their noses in front but the injury voodoo struck again, three front row going down so they had to finish the game with 14 men and uncontested scrums.

With barely 20 fit players to select from Stour had to play all but the last 15min without a recognised goal-kicker on the field, this came back to haunt them as they elected to kick penalties to the corners but found their lineout misfiring, attacking positions all too frequently coming to naught.

The visitors took a quick tap and gained a lot of yardage when Jake Nash strayed offside, a scrum infringement then kicked for the corner and the ball driven up the middle where lively winger Dev Constant spotted a mismatch and darted through a gap to score under the posts.

A neat pass from Stef Shillingford allowed Eji Uzoigwe to fashion another linebreak, but an overcooked follow-up kick gifted ball and territory straight back.

Stour’s scrum came under pressure and coughed up possession near halfway, Lions No.8 Rob Young broke through but a last ditch tackle by Bressington held out his support runner Constant.

Gary Dipple kicked to the 22 where the visitors tried the old trick of standing off the maul, Stour worked it wide though and were

Rugby

awarded a penalty that he converted.

A Dipple kick at goal rebounded from the upright but Stour worked lineout ball wide with some precision cut-out passes, finally stretching the defences to breaking point when Mark George found himself with an overlap, straightened the attack and fed Bressington who scored out wide.

The restart saw Stour concede a lineout just outside their 22 from which the visitors drove a set of mauls, loose head Ben Spokes scoring.

A lineout set up a Lions drive that saw second row Matt Tuckey crash over.

Stour came back with a driving maul that was finally forced over for captain Nigel Mukaratiti to score.

The Stour forwards drove infield to pull in the defences, Nash moved the ball wide and Cooksammy was put clear by Jarvis, reclaiming the lead with a try in the corner.

With just five minutes to go Burke slotted the kick at goal to retake the lead and Dale Garner was forced off without replacement.



Stourbridge’s scrum half Jacob Nash gets the kick away during the battle at Northampton

Athletes step into New Year with run

DUDLEY and Stourbridge Harriers athletes where well to the fore at the weekend when they were taking part in the Worcestershire County cross country Championships at Cofton Park.

For the men Lee Slater continued his fine form taking the senior title with a time of 35min 30sec.

Dave Nation was 15th in 39.25; Paul Waby just behind in 18th in 39.57 and also taking the veteran M50 title.

Also for the club was Dave Ratcliffe who came in 22nd with a time of 41.06 and next was Rob Meredith a few seconds later 27th with 41.43.

Tom Slater was another winner in the under-13 boys race, leading the Dash team to second place as Adam Horton finished in ninth place in front of Adam Bodin who came in 11th followed by Harry Walters 12th.

Reece Ashfield ran well for fourth in the under-15 boys race and Jay Priantoro 10th.

Tom’s sister Grace Slater had a great run as she finished fifth in the under-13 girls race.

Elliot Jones in the under-17 boys race ran well for fifth place with Ashleigh Bentley coming in with the seventh spot.

Sako can’t leave on high note

Fulham 0 Wolves 0
HARD as he tried, Bakary Sako couldn’t quite give Wolves something to remember him by.

At times in this game the Mali winger seemed to be on a one-man mission to find the moment which would have sent him to the African Cup of Nations with the plaudits ringing in his ears.

He came close when home keeper Marcus Bettinelli diverted his first-half drive onto the post thanks to the slightest of touches. A second-half snapshot also fizzed past the post while numerous crosses came close.

But the moment never came and Wolves now face an extra game again at Molineux.

CAREERS THIS WAY



Star Employment services



Call Star Employment Services today on 01902 319333 or visit www.staremploymentservices.co.uk

Associated with
Express & Star **STAR**

SPORT

Lions lose
Fightback just not
enough to stay in cup
Page 39

Weakened side
Injury hit Stour
downed by two
Page 39



Sports Desk 01902 319531

email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Annual running ritual for DK club

THE New Year started with a bang for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club with the club's traditional New Year's Day Handicap race.

A 4.1 mile event goes from DK Rugby Club.

Rather than every runner starting together the slowest goes off first and the fastest goes off last with everyone else given adjusted start times in between the two depending on their ability with the intention that, if the handicapper has done his job properly, everyone finishes together.

With someone to chase and someone chasing you it makes for an interesting spectacle as runners approach the finish together in a big group.

With the race open to all-comers, not just DK members, it was left to Tipton Harrier, Tom Holden to record the fastest time of the day finishing in 29.14, from the DK pair of Ben Foster in 22.09 and Matt Biggs in 23.54.

In the women's event it was a home win for Sandra Brain who finished in 29.11. Cath Quane was runner up in 31.21 and Carol Fisher was 3rd in 31.31 making it a clean sweep for the blue hoops.

The prize for "nearest the handicap" going to Daren Thompson.

Varnish picked for cup squad

JESS VARNISH has been included in a young Great Britain squad for the third and final round of the Track World Cup series, affording senior riders a break ahead of the Track World Championships.

Results at the London round left coaches reaching for their calculators to work out qualification points for February's World Championships in Paris.

Britain won four gold medals in London and only two of the squad from this month's event will travel to Cali, Colombia, for the third World Cup competition, which takes place from January 16 to 18.

Halesowen Cycling Club's Varnish and Vicky Williamson will compete in the women's sprint disciplines as part of a 16-rider squad of predominantly of British Cycling's Olympic Academy Programme riders.

Penalties prove a problem for Old Hales

Nuneaton 24 Old Halesonians 14

OLD Hales were disrupted by a late cry off from coach Mark Evans and Skipper Rich Taylor. The front row was made up of Tom Dempsey, Callum Young at hooker and Pete Fitzgerald taking Taylor's place on the loose head after weeks of injury.

For the first 12 minutes Hales put pressure on the home team.

They managed to get themselves a 14-0 lead, the first try from some excellent forward and back combination play following a lineout ball from Tom King for full back Chris Hooper to score a well worked try.

Rugby

converted by him. Shortly after a Nuneaton attack saw a long pass in the backs, intercepted by Hooper, who sprinted 50 metres for his second try and conversion.

All this despite Hales being under immediate pressure from the home pack, this continued throughout the game. Hales gave away far too many penalties.

This resulted in three of the four penalties converted to reduce the deficit to 9-14. Hales managed to put themselves in try

scoring positions near to the Nuneaton line but failed to take advantage.

Continued pressure close to the Nuns line was not capitalised on despite the home side at one point down to 14 men. This was a crucial part of the game, the half time lead left Hales in a confident position with lots to do.

The second half was all Nuneaton with Hales struggling to dominate. The penalty count continued. Nuns continued the pressure.

A penalty and a converted try in close succession gave Nuns the lead and Hales

were again against it when prop Padian received a yellow card. The home side again took the game to Hales and an interception gave them the win.

Team manager Simon Hussey said "We did not compete up front and gave too many penalties away, something we thought we had solved.

"We need to regroup." Old Hales meet Sutton Coldfield away this Saturday, kick off 2.15pm.

Old Halesonians 2nds 13 Nuneaton 2nds 10

Old Halesonians 4ths 40 Essington 10.

Yeltz are put on the spot

Halesowen Town 4 Barwell 1

HALESOWEN bounced back to winning ways with a convincing victory where three goals came from the penalty spot.

Man of the match Aaron Daniels caused all the early danger and fired Halesowen into an eighth minute lead with a smart finish from the left after being set up by Tom Tonks for his first Halesowen goal.

The opening stages of the second half gave little hint of the drama to unfold.

Referee Stuart Eagland awarded three within six minutes.

In the 61st minute Daniels was impeded on his second attempt at goal with Eagland pointing to the spot.

Christie smacked home to double Halesowen's lead.

A second penalty award fell for Aaron Forde to convert the spot-kick.

Barwell reduced the arrears when Carney stroked home another penalty. Elliott Turner completed the scoring at 4-1 as his low shot nestled into Beeson's bottom corner.

In injury time Turner almost added a fifth.

Derby day for FA Cup draw

ALBION will travel to Blues for a Midlands derby in the FA Cup fourth round.

The Baggies will visit St Andrew's for the first time since March 2011, when they won 3-1 when both were Premier League sides.

Wolves will go to Premier League Sunderland if they beat Fulham in the replay. Villa face Bournemouth.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, January 8

GLASSBOYS SHUT OUT THE ALBION

Stourbridge 3 Witton Albion 0

STOURBRIDGE brushed off their poor performance at Rushall on New Year's Day to impress in front of the home fans.

They were always on top against a Witton side who are struggling to get away from the lower reaches of the Evo-Stik Premier Division.

The win sees the Glassboys move up to 10th place in the league table.

The Glassboys pushed from the start and Kayelden Brown went close on eight minutes but saw his shot tipped over by visiting goalkeeper Andy Robertson to keep the scoreboard clean.

But that was change in an instance from the resulting corner taken by Drew Canavan, Exodus Geohagon produced a bullet header from close range to give the keeper no chance and notch his first goal for the Glassboys.

Equalised

Witton almost equalised shortly after with their only real chance of the game when Luke Clark sent a great free-kick towards goal but it was tipped onto the bar by Dean Coleman to preserve the Glassboys' lead.

On 20 minutes, Luke Benbow slipped a short through-ball to Brown who applied the finish to double his side's lead to 2-0.

It could have been four by half-time, as Benbow found space and had two good chances, one when he chipped that ball wide of the mark and another when he saw his flick towards the op-

Football

position goal saved by Robertson.

Although there were not as many chances in the second half and there was some scrappy play, Stourbridge scored on 63 minutes when Canavan supplied a low cross from the right-hand side of the area and George Bowerman brought the final score of the match.

Benbow saw a free-kick well-saved by Robertson on 70 minutes before he was replaced with just three minutes of the game remaining and Stourbridge settled for the victory and taking all three points.

Stourbridge: Coleman; Bowerman; Brown (McPike 80); Morris; Richards (Fitzpatrick 77); Geohagon; Haynes; Broadhurst; Benbow (Morgan-Parker 87); Canavan; Knight.

Subs not used: Tye; Grainger.

Witton Albion: Robertson; Gardner; Dawson; Corbett (De La Bastide 81); Jon Shaw; Joe Shaw (Titchiner 51); Gibson; Clark; Henders; Rainford; Andrews.

Subs not used: Koral; Porter.

Attendance: 404.



Brown wheels away in delight after scoring his goal for Stourbridge during the shutout against Witton Albion

Domino's

We're ready to take your order **Stourbridge Industrial Estate, Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge DY8 1JN**
OPENING HOURS: Mon-Thurs 11.30am - 11pm, Fri - Sat 11.30am-12pm, Sun 11.30am - 10.45pm

01384 374666

the **COLLECTION** special
50% OFF
ALL PIZZAS ON COLLECTION ONLY

the **DELIVERY** special
ANY SIZE PIZZA **£10.99**

the **MULTI SAVER** deal
BUY ONE PIZZA GET ONE PIZZA FOR **£1**

Meal for 2
MEDIUM CLASSIC CRUST PIZZA
+ GARLIC PIZZA BREAD + POTATO WEDGES + 2 CANS OF DRINK
£12.99

the **ONLINE** special
SPEND £30 OR MORE ONLINE AND ENJOY
40% OFF ONLINE ONLY AT
WWW.DOMINOS.CO.UK Enter Code: VMDPTJMP

T&Cs: *Pizza from the menu or create your own up to 4 toppings. Second Pizza must be equal or less value. Not valid with any other offer. Expiry date 15/02/15